

SHEILA JACKSON LEE
18TH DISTRICT, TEXAS

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
2252 Rayburn Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-3816

DISTRICT OFFICE:
1919 Smith Street, Suite 1180
Houston, TX 77002
(713) 655-0050

ACRES HOME OFFICE:
6719 West Montgomery, Suite 204
Houston, TX 77091
(713) 691-4882

HEIGHTS OFFICE:
420 West 19th Street
Houston, TX 77008
(713) 861-4070

FIFTH WARD OFFICE:
4300 Lyons Ave., Suite 200
Houston, TX 77020
(713) 227-7740

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

1209

COMMITTEES:
JUDICIARY
SUBCOMMITTEES:
Ranking Member
Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security and
Investigations
Immigration and Border Security

HOMELAND SECURITY
SUBCOMMITTEES:
Cybersecurity, Infrastructure Protection, and
Security Technologies

Border and Maritime Security

SENIOR WHIP
DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS

November 12, 2015

The Honorable Tom Wheeler
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554-0004

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

Innovations in technology are increasing customer access to free television programming that provide more choice, better content and new services which are transforming the consumer experience with video content. Consumers have complained about why they need a set-top box to watch their favorite programming and I have advocated that television broadcast providers and networks produce and carry the kind of diverse programming that represents all of America.

Positive steps have been made and we have been moving toward a vast unencumbered television market on a new level of access that supports a spectrum of program offerings that are in the public interest. These new arrivals are creating app options that were not conceived of before and that support television content streaming over smartphones, computers, ibooks and other mobile technology.

The Honorable Tom Wheeler
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
November 12, 2015
Page 2

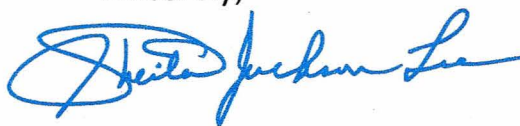
I am concerned by reports that the FCC is considering a new regulation called All Vid that would jeopardize progress made in providing nearly universal access to no cost broadcast television, raise consumer costs, require consumers to rent another set-top box, threaten diverse programming and erode consumer protections. This would be a disaster for consumers and minority programmers.

Instead of allowing innovators and competitors unfettered ability to continue building on the TV app frontier, All Vid would require consumers to add a government-designed set-top box, resulting in higher bills and higher energy usage. And even worse, while requiring consumers to rent more equipment, it would eliminate consumer protections concerning privacy, emergency alerts, children's programming and more. Consumers would pay more and be protected less.

All Vid may cause irreparable harm to independent and minority programmers by allowing third parties to strip programming from visible channel placements and relegate it to the bottom of the pile. These new entrants would also be allowed to sell intrusive advertising without sharing any revenue with programmers, cutting off the needed revenue to continue producing the diverse quality content that a dynamic video content market has come to expect.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. I look forward to working with you to ensure that consumer welfare and diversity of voices are not the casualties of an unnecessary tech mandate like All Vid. If you have questions, please contact my Chief of Staff, Glenn Rushing at 202-225-3816 or by email glenn.rushing@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,



Sheila Jackson Lee
MEMBER OF CONGRESS