

Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Homeland Security
Subcommittee on Labor,
Health and Human Services and
Education

Democratic Senior Whip

Congressional Hispanic Caucus
Healthcare Task Force Chair



LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD
40TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

WASHINGTON, DC OFFICE:
2330 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-0540
Telephone: (202) 225-1766
Fax: (202) 226-0350

DISTRICT OFFICE:
500 Citadel Drive, Suite 320
Commerce, CA 90040-1572
Telephone: (323) 721-8790
Fax: (323) 721-8789

<http://roybal-allard.house.gov>

February 17, 2016

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

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

I am writing in regard to the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking aimed at creating a competitive retail market for set-top boxes and at reducing fees for the average American household. It is of great importance to me that my constituents and consumers across the country have choice in the marketplace and opportunities to save money on their bills. As such, I commend you for your proposal's focus on the customer.

While I support the empowerment of the consumer, I also want to highlight concerns that have been brought to my attention, including issues surrounding diversity programming and privacy. Latino programmers have expressed a concern that Latino inclusion in programming will be diminished if the carefully negotiated license agreements that set the terms of show distribution, advertisement, and channel placement are not upheld, but are unbundled. Your proposal's fact sheet states that, "the proposal does not change a company's ability to package and price its programming to subscribers" and that you expect that the proposal will "lead to more and better programming accessed more easily, especially minority, independent, and international programming." I believe that Latino inclusion in programming is essential to the advancement of the Latino community as a whole and I encourage you to continue lifting up independent and minority content as the rulemaking process moves forward.

I also understand that existing TV providers and potential set-top box manufacturers would be governed by different regulations regarding the use and collection of consumer data. It is extremely important that the proposed framework protects consumer's privacy, clearly outlines how consumers' data will be protected, and what recourse consumers have if their data is improperly used.

Thank you for your attention to my letter. I look forward to your response and will continue to follow the rulemaking process with a focus on the consumer, privacy, and the advancement of our Latino community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lucille Roybal-Allard". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD
Member of Congress