

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

February 2, 2009

***How Many Families in Your Congressional District Are
Waiting for a Digital Television Converter Box?***

Dear Colleague:

On Wednesday, the House will be voting on S. 352, the DTV Delay Act, which would implement a one-time delay of the scheduled February 17 elimination of analog television broadcasting until June 12.

There are currently 1.8 million households on a waiting list to receive more than 3.3 million coupons to help offset the cost of purchasing digital television converter boxes, which allow an analog television set that relies on over-the-air reception to display digital signals. Without a delay of the transition date, few, if any, of these households will receive their coupons by February 17 because of the time it takes to process coupon requests. These households are in every congressional district in the nation.

Millions of U.S. households are unprepared for the DTV transition. According to the latest data from the Nielsen Company, there are 6.5 million households that will lose all TV reception on the scheduled digital television transition date of February 17. In the average congressional district, 5.7% of the households are currently not prepared for the transition.

We have received data from the Commerce Department on the number of households in your district that are on the waiting list for digital converter box coupons. In order to assist you in evaluating the need for the DTV Delay Act, we have attached a table that contains this information for each member of Congress.

If you have any questions about the DTV Delay Act, please contact Roger Sherman or Amy Levine of the Committee staff at (202) 225-2927.

Sincerely,



Henry A. Waxman
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce



Rick Boucher
Chairman
Subcommittee on
Communications, Technology and the
Internet