

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

200,000 Households Added to Digital Television Converter Box Waiting List in Just Two Business Days... How Many Are in Your District?

Dear Colleague:

Today 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.

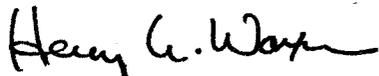
Two days ago, we sent out a Dear Colleague that described the 1.8 million households on a waiting list to receive coupons to help offset the cost of purchasing digital television converter boxes, which allow an analog television set that relies on over-the-air reception to display digital signals. Without 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.

In just the last two business days, the size of this waiting list has grown by 200,000 households. There are now over two million households on the waiting list for coupons, and if the list continues to grow at this rate, there will be approximately three million households on the waiting list by the February 17 deadline. These households are in every congressional district in the nation.

We have received updated information from the Commerce Department on the number of households in your district that are on the waiting list for digital converter box coupons, and the increase in the size of the waiting list since January 30. 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