# Public Knowledge

## THE FCC'S MODIFIED SET TOP-APP COMBINATION PROPOSAL RESPONDS TO PROGRAMMER CONCERNS

Right now, the Federal Communications Commission is finalizing a proposal that will enable consumers to access their cable subscriptions via apps on third party devices and systems. This proposal is the result of several years of negotiations to determine how best to ensure a competitive video marketplace for rapidly developing 21st century technologies.

During that time, stakeholders ranging from cable to content to consumer advocates have voiced their concerns, and the FCC has listened.  In particular, the Commission's proposal duly addresses the concerns of programmers, including but not limited to the following ways:

- Under the Commission's proposal, an MVPD-controlled app will control programming at all times. It will use MVPD and programmer-approved means to prevent copyright infringement.

- The MVPD-controlled app will maintain existing arrangements concerning channel line-ups and advertising.

- The FCC's proposal will make it impossible for MVPDs to discriminate between programmers with respect to the app.

- The FCC's proposal gives programmers input into the agreement between device makers and MVPDs that will     control the terms of app access. This goes further than CableCARD in giving programmers influence on the competitive device marketplace.

It has been 20 years since Congress ordered the FCC to foster a competitive video solution for consumers in the digital age.  For too long, consumers have had no choice but to endlessly pay for overpriced, underwhelming, and under-performing set top boxes. The complexities have been examined and addressed and the time to act is now. Urge the Commission to finish the job and #UnlockTheBox now.