



## National Editorial Boards Praise the FCC's Proposal to "Unlock" the Pay TV Set Top Box

### **New York Times Editorial:**

*"Every year, American cable-TV subscribers spend \$231 on average to rent cable boxes that they should be able to buy outright, potentially saving them hundreds of dollars over several years. Consumers could soon have that option under an excellent proposal by the chairman of the Federal Communications Commission."* [[New York Times Editorial](#); February 8, 2016]

*"Connecting a set-top box to a cable line or satellite dish should be as easy as activating a new cellphone on a wireless network. Consumers should have a choice of devices, and they should be able to buy the boxes outright or pay for them through their monthly plan."* [[New York Times Editorial](#); August 31, 2015]

### **Los Angeles Times Editorial:**

*"...consumers have been stuck with whatever their local cable operator offered, which has slowed innovation in program guides, digital recorders, the integration of online content and other key aspects of TV service."*

*"That market should be competitive. And rather than trusting cable operators to promote indie networks, limit consumers' exposure to advertising and protect their privacy, it's far better to let consumers decide such things for themselves in an open, competitive market."* [[L.A. Times Editorial](#); January 28, 2016]

### **USA Today Editorial:**

*"The FCC has an opportunity to open the way for better devices, and it should."*

*"Unsurprisingly, the industry says that's too complicated and too onerous. The real reason seems to be that it would threaten cable providers' gravy train of rental income and their control of how their customers watch TV — reasons the FCC would do well to look past as it seeks the best outcome for consumers."* [[USA Today Editorial](#); September 14, 2015]

### **Chicago Tribune Editorial:**

*"Even if this simply means getting rid of a few remotes or paying less for an ugly, required contraption, we're all in."*

*"Until 1968, AT&T controlled the entire phone system, requiring customers to lease equipment and banning any third parties from connecting to its network. Then, through what's known as the Carterfone case, the FCC lifted the ban on outsiders. The result was nicer phones you could buy instead of rent, yes, but it also hastened a technological revolution: answering machines, fax machines, modems and eventually the Internet. A completely new world, spurred by increased competition."* [[Chicago Tribune](#), February 15, 2016]

### **Boston Globe Editorial:**

*"Set-top cable and satellite television boxes look, and sometimes act, like relics from an earlier technological age. Most of them are clunky, finicky, and ugly. There's also something else anachronistic about the equipment — the monthly rental fee that companies charge customers for their use."*

*“Under a common-sense proposal put forth by Wheeler, the regressive era of never-ending payments could give way to greater innovation, and savings for consumers.”* [[Boston Globe](#), February 10, 2016]

**The Hawaii Tribune Herald Editorial:**

*“...the industry continued to act as a gatekeeper over devices and technologies. As a result, with limited exceptions, consumers have been stuck with whatever their local cable operator offered, which has slowed innovation in program guides, digital recorders, the integration of online content and other key aspects of TV service.”*

*“Consumers would still have the option of the local cable operator’s box, but the difference is that it would be an option, not a prerequisite to getting cable programming.”* [[Hawaii Tribune Herald Editorial](#), January 30, 2016 (reprinted from LA Times)]

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