

Federal Communications Commission 445 12th Street, S.W. Washington, D. C. 20554

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Statement of Acting FCC Chairman Michael J. Copps on Congressional passage of the DTV Delay Act

"I welcome Congressional passage of the DTV Delay Act. It has long been clear to meand it's even clearer since I became Acting FCC Chairman two weeks ago--that the country is not prepared to undertake a nationwide transition in twelve days without unacceptably high consumer dislocation.

"The additional four months provided by the law affords urgently-needed time for a more phased transition, including a consumer-friendly converter box coupon program, stepped-up consumer outreach and support--particularly for vulnerable populations--and dealing with coverage, antenna and reception issues that went too long unaddressed.

"We've got a lot of work to do, but thanks to great leadership in the Senate and House of Representatives, we now have an opportunity to do it better."