

Congressman Rothman Votes to Protect Consumers and Delay Transition to Digital Television (DTV)

White House Releases Additional State-Specific Impacts of American Recovery and Reinvestment Plan

Many Customers Ill Prepared for Change in TV Transmission

(Washington, DC) — Today, Congressman Steve Rothman (D — Fair Lawn) voted in favor of delaying the mandatory conversion from analog to all-digital television (DTV) until June 12, 2009, enabling more consumers to prepare for the change. Originally scheduled to take place on February 17, 2009, it has become apparent in the last few weeks that many households are ill-prepared for the switch from analog to DTV viewing. In addition, there is a long list of consumers waiting for their digital converter boxes, including over 4,400 in New Jersey's 9th Congressional District.

The DTV Transition will provide television viewers with clearer pictures and more program choices, and will free up major portions of the airwaves for public safety communications such as police, fire and rescue, and for new broadband wireless services.

If you have an analog television set which is connected to cable or satellite, those service providers will make sure that your television set receives a viewable image after the transition. If you have a digital television set, your television is ready for the DTV Transition.

If you have an analog television set which receives signals by means of rabbit ears or an over-the-air antenna and you desire to keep this set in service, you will need to attach a small digital-to-analog converter box to your television set in order to continue receiving over-the-air television broadcasts. These converter boxes are being sold nationwide at retail stores and online. In addition, the federal government has a coupon program to help offset a portion of the cost to purchase converter boxes.

All U.S. households may request up to two \$40 coupons to go toward the purchase of up to two digital-to-analog converter boxes, which are expected to cost between \$50 and \$60 each. The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), a federal government agency, is in charge of the Digital-to-Analog

Converter Box Coupon Program. Upon request, the NTIA will mail up to two coupons and a list of local retailers in the area that sell converter boxes. The converter box coupons expire 90 days after they are issued. NTIA will start mailing coupons to eligible households that have requested them once the converter boxes are available for purchase in retail stores. For more information about the Coupon Program and how to apply for coupons, go to the NTIA website at www.dtv2009.gov or call 1-888-DTV-2009 (1-888-388-2009).

For additional information about the DTV Transition and what you may need to do to prepare for it, visit the Federal Communications Commission's website <http://www.dtv.gov/> or call 1-888-225-5322.

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