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## FEDERATION OF CONSUMER AND SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

(Regd. No.CAG/01/2016 as a Consumer advocacy group with TRAI )

No.5, 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Lakshmipuram,  
Tiruchirappalli – 620 010. T.N. State.

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The Chairman,  
Telecom Regulatory Authority of India,  
New Delhi – 110 002.

18<sup>th</sup>, April, 2016

Sir,

**Sub: submit our view in Pre – consultation Paper on Set Top Box Interoperability dated 04.04.2016 – reg:**

We most respectfully forward our view on the above consultation paper for your kind consideration and take decision in the interest of consumer at large and also check the e waste by reutilizing 30 million STP and bring ideal investment of \$750 million to stream:

**In your opinion, what are the concerns that should be taken care of at the time of development of framework of interoperable of STBs?**

- TRAI will give priority in reutilizing 30 million STB, those are ideal considering not only these involve the amount of \$ 750 million capital is lying unused but also face huge e - waste.
- The STB interoperability both within separate segment (Cable TV & DTH) and a cross segment (among Cable TV and DTH).
- The quality of the Cable TV is poor compared to DTH. Though Cable TV uses RF (Radio Frequency ) for transmission as the cable length increases , the quality diminishes. Also the Cable TV channels clarity diminishes with their Channel numbers in the descending order. The DTH transmits the same quality for all the channels, even during local power cuts. Only during rains the DTH is disrupted. Cable TV is politically functioning. We can straight away do away with Cable TV.

**ii. What are the techno-commercial reasons for non-interoperability of STBs other than those mentioned above? Please provide reasons with full details.**

- Regarding techno-Commercial reasons for the non-interoperability of STBs it is purely commercial exploitation of all concerned. The transmission wave lengths are almost same. When the stake holders can get all the FM Radio stations in one Radio set why not the STBs? The mobile phone operators are sharing the signal towers as well as the Spectrum for Broad Band, then why can't the same operators like AIRTEL, TATA SKY, etc. dealing in STBs.
- When Multi SIM USB can be used , why can't STB accepting any SMART CARD be used. This is pure hoodwinking of the stake holders by the Service Providers. These are not like CDMA and GSM technologies which are non compatible.

**iii. What are the plausible solutions for technical interoperability of STBs and their impact on the sector growth?**

The Operators must either provide free access to any Service provider for their STBs or accept the STBs at a reasonable rate when the customer returns it, as offered by mobile set suppliers for used models. The Public should not be held for ransom by these Service Providers.

**iv. Any other issue which you feel will be relevant for development of technical interoperability of the set top boxes.**

- If feel complication in technically interoperable of STBs, the service provider would Refund the money deposited for DTH on return of the same either in full or some part more than 50% , this will help to reutilize of 30. Million of ideal STB and the amount \$750 million will also come to stream.

Thanks and regards.

Yours Sincerely,

M. Sekaran,  
President.