



THE VOICE OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY BUSINESS

**HB 1203 – CONSUMER PROTECTION – CABLE OPERATORS –
PURCHASE OF A CONVERTER BOX**

**HOUSE ECONOMIC MATTERS COMMITTEE
MARCH 9, 2010**

OPPOSE

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce ("MCCC"), as the voice of Montgomery County business, **opposes HB 1203** which would require a cable operator to offer the cable customer the option of renting or purchasing a cable converter box, and would make a violation of this provision by the cable operator a deceptive trade practice.

While the intent of this legislation is well-meaning, we are concerned that in addition to placing additional mandates on cable operators, the bill is unlikely to yield significant consumer benefits. Technology in the cable industry is rapidly changing. Just a few short years ago, we didn't have high definition cable boxes, or DVR. Unfortunately, with the purchase of a cable box, consumers could be locking themselves into technology that quickly becomes outdated. Unfortunately, there are also no benefits in portability if a consumer moves or decides to change cable providers.

For these reasons, we request an **unfavorable report** on HB 1203.

Gigi Godwin, President and CEO
Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce
51 Monroe Street, Suite 1800 Rockville, MD 20850
301-738-0015
www.montgomerycountychamber.com