



NEWS RELEASE

STATEMENT BY VANS STEVENSON

Senior Vice President State Legislative Affairs, Motion Picture Association of America

The statements issued today by the Consumer Electronics Association (CEA) concerning the model communications security legislation are patently false. The model communications security legislation is exclusively about stealing communications services.

- It does not prevent any individual from owning or using any piece of consumer electronics equipment from a TIVO to a VCR.
- It does not prevent ownership or usage of a multi-purpose device such as a personal computer.
- It does not cover a mere breach of service contract, particularly a contract for Internet services.

The legislation only provides for criminal and civil remedies if an individual steals a service offered for a fee, and expands the criminalization of electronic devices and software--beyond already outlawed illegal cable television devices, if such a device was specifically designed, distributed and marketed to steal communications services.

It's a shame and a disservice to honest consumers that CEA is resorting to scare tactics based on misinformation after failing to object to this legislation when it was enacted in six states over the past three years or while a number of measures were moving through several state legislatures this year. Let me state this as plainly as possible: if you are an honest consumer, this legislation will pave the way for future generations of digital services. However, if you like to steal, you will not find this language hospitable."

April 29, 2003

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