

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. HJ0006

Statewide satellite carriage of Wyoming PBS.

Sponsored by: Representative(s) Illoway and Senator(s) Bebout

A Bill

for

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION requesting Congress to amend the  
2 Satellite Home Viewers Improvement Act.

3

4 WHEREAS, Wyoming PBS, also known as KCWC-TV or Wyoming  
5 Public Television, provides the citizens of Wyoming a vital  
6 source of noncommercial, educational and public affairs  
7 programming and services, with content that is consistently  
8 of the highest quality to be found on television. Wyoming  
9 PBS is a local institution that provides content and  
10 services tailored to meet Wyoming community needs and  
11 Wyoming PBS represents one of the last locally-owned and  
12 controlled media outlets in many of our Wyoming  
13 communities. For all these reasons, Wyoming PBS should be  
14 accessible to as many Wyoming citizens as possible; and

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1 WHEREAS, Wyoming PBS is the only television station  
2 offering the citizens of Wyoming in depth, locally produced  
3 programs that connect Wyoming people with information  
4 through programs on Wyoming's public affairs, the  
5 legislature, history, arts and culture, including "Wyoming  
6 Voices," "Washakie: Last Chief of the Shoshones," "Capitol  
7 Outlook," "Main Street, Wyoming," "Wyoming Performances"  
8 and "Wyoming Perspectives"; and

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10 WHEREAS, Wyoming PBS also provides an invaluable,  
11 unduplicated service to the Wyoming community through  
12 educational opportunities with its Ready to Learn literacy  
13 workshops for early childhood service providers. Wyoming  
14 PBS provides General Educational Development on television,  
15 telecourses offered for college credit in conjunction with  
16 the state's community colleges, television and digital  
17 media classes for Central Wyoming College students and  
18 hands-on, live television production experience for high  
19 school media students throughout the state; and

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21 WHEREAS, the Satellite Home Viewer Improvement Act, passed  
22 by Congress in 1999, was intended to require satellite  
23 providers to provide "local" service to their customers.  
24 To the contrary, it distorted the interpretation of "local"

1 service and resulted in declining access by Wyoming people  
2 to Wyoming PBS. The act designates that "local service" by  
3 satellite will be determined by Nielsen Designated Market  
4 Areas. This designation prohibits satellite providers from  
5 providing Wyoming PBS to the following counties in Wyoming:  
6 Albany, Big Horn, Campbell, Carbon, Crook, Goshen, Johnson,  
7 Laramie, Lincoln, Niobrara, Park, Platte, Sheridan,  
8 Sublette, Sweetwater, Teton, Uinta and Weston. These  
9 counties do not receive Wyoming PBS because they are  
10 included in Nielsen DMA's located in neighboring states.

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12 *NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE*  
13 *LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WYOMING:*

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15 **Section 1.** That Congress is urged to pass and vote  
16 for an amendment to the Satellite Home Viewers Improvement  
17 Act which would allow satellite carriers to offer Wyoming  
18 PBS service as a "local" signal to any satellite viewer  
19 residing in the state of Wyoming, regardless of their  
20 Nielsen Designated Market Area.

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1           **Section 2.**   That the Secretary of State of Wyoming  
2 transmit copies of this resolution to the President of the  
3 United States, to the President of the Senate and the  
4 Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United  
5 States Congress and to the Wyoming Congressional  
6 Delegation.

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(END)