

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 29

49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2009

INTRODUCED BY

Anna M. Crook

A JOINT MEMORIAL

URGING CONGRESS TO AUTHORIZE THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS
COMMISSION TO REQUIRE DIRECT BROADCAST SATELLITE SERVICE
PROVIDERS TO OFFER CUSTOMERS IN DESIGNATED MARKET AREAS THAT
ARE CENTERED IN NEIGHBORING STATES THE OPTION OF RECEIVING
LOCAL NETWORK BROADCAST PROGRAMMING THAT ORIGINATES IN THE
STATE IN WHICH THE CUSTOMER RESIDES.

WHEREAS, the direct broadcast satellite service providers
that serve Curry county residents and much of eastern New
Mexico do not offer any broadcast television programming
originating in New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, in part because Curry county is in the same
designated market area as Amarillo, Texas, the only network
broadcast television programs offered by direct broadcast
satellite service providers originate in Amarillo; and

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1 WHEREAS, Curry county is located in a designated market
2 area that, pursuant to federal law, is determined by Nielsen
3 media research; and

4 WHEREAS, the residents of Curry county, as well other
5 counties on the eastern border of New Mexico, often have no
6 other video news source than that offered by direct broadcast
7 satellite service providers; and

8 WHEREAS, local television news coverage of events not
9 only from Albuquerque and Santa Fe, but from other New Mexico
10 cities as well, is vitally important to Curry county viewers;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, developments in New Mexico government, political
13 offices and culture are often not newsworthy in Texas but are
14 of immediate interest and importance to New Mexicans; and

15 WHEREAS, as users of the public airwaves, and as a matter
16 of public service, direct broadcast satellite service providers
17 should be required to offer consumers the choice of receiving
18 their news from within their state of residence;

19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
20 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that congress be requested to authorize the
21 federal communications commission to require direct broadcast
22 satellite service providers to offer customers in designated
23 market areas that are centered in neighboring states the option
24 of receiving local network broadcast programming that
25 originates in the state in which the customer resides; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be transmitted to the New Mexico congressional delegation and the federal communications commission.

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