

# SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 2

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By: **Senator Edwards**

Introduced and read first time: January 28, 2011

Assigned to: Finance

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## SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A Senate Joint Resolution concerning

2 **Inclusion of Garrett County in the Baltimore and Washington, D.C.**  
3 **Television Broadcast Market Areas**

4 FOR the purpose of expressing certain findings of the General Assembly in connection  
5 with the ability of Garrett County residents to receive broadcasts from  
6 Baltimore and Washington, D.C. television stations; and urging the Maryland  
7 Delegation to Congress to encourage the Federal Communications Commission  
8 to amend its market determination regulations and to sponsor and support any  
9 necessary legislation in the United States Congress to allow Garrett County  
10 residents to receive television broadcasts from stations in the Baltimore and  
11 Washington, D.C. designated television broadcast market areas.

12 WHEREAS, The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has regulatory  
13 authority over cable and satellite television service; and

14 WHEREAS, Under federal law, cable and satellite television carriers must carry  
15 the signals of local commercial broadcast television stations that request carriage in  
16 counties that are designated by the FCC to be in the station's local television market  
17 area; and

18 WHEREAS, Under federal law, cable and satellite television carriers are under  
19 no obligation to carry the signals of commercial broadcast television stations located in  
20 other television market areas that broadcast duplicate programming; and

21 WHEREAS, In some circumstances, cable and satellite television carriers are  
22 prohibited by television network nonduplication or exclusivity agreements to carry the  
23 signals of broadcast television stations located in another television market area; and

24 WHEREAS, The FCC has designated Garrett County, Maryland, to be in the  
25 Pittsburgh television market area; and



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1 WHEREAS, As a consequence, cable and satellite television carriers in Garrett  
2 County do not carry the signals of television stations located in the Baltimore and  
3 Washington, D.C. designated market areas; and

4 WHEREAS, Garrett County residents are unable to view news coverage  
5 relevant and important to them as Maryland residents, including coverage of  
6 Maryland politics and elections of their public officials; and

7 WHEREAS, Garrett County residents are also unable to view sporting events  
8 featuring their favorite teams broadcast on Baltimore and Washington, D.C. television  
9 stations; and

10 WHEREAS, Numerous Garrett County residents have signed a petition  
11 requesting that the FCC allow them to view Baltimore and Washington, D.C.  
12 television stations; now, therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the  
14 General Assembly finds it is in the best interest of the residents of Garrett County to  
15 be able to view broadcasts from stations located in the Baltimore and Washington,  
16 D.C. television market areas so that they may know what is happening in their own  
17 state; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That the Maryland Delegation to Congress is urged to encourage  
19 the FCC to amend its television market determination regulations and to sponsor and  
20 support any necessary legislation in the United States Congress to allow Garrett  
21 County residents to receive broadcasts from stations located in the Baltimore and  
22 Washington, D.C. television market areas; and be it further

23 RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of  
24 Legislative Services to the Honorable Martin O'Malley, Governor of Maryland; the  
25 Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., President of the Senate of Maryland; and the  
26 Honorable Michael E. Busch, Speaker of the House of Delegates; and be it further

27 RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of  
28 Legislative Services to the Maryland Congressional Delegation: Senators Barbara A.  
29 Mikulski and Benjamin L. Cardin, Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510;  
30 and Representatives Andrew P. Harris, C. A. Dutch Ruppersberger III, John P.  
31 Sarbanes, Donna Edwards, Steny Hamilton Hoyer, Roscoe G. Bartlett, Elijah E.  
32 Cummings, and Christopher Van Hollen, Jr., House Office Building, Washington, D.C.  
33 20515; and be it further

34 RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of  
35 Legislative Services to the Honorable Julius Genachowski, Chairman of the Federal  
36 Communications Commission, 445 12th Street S.W., Washington, D.C. 20554.