

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 2

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By: **Senator Edwards**

Introduced and read first time: January 28, 2011

Assigned to: Finance

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 1, 2011

RESOLUTION NO. _____

1 A Senate Joint Resolution concerning

2 ~~Inclusion~~ **Access of Garrett County ~~in~~ Residents to the Baltimore and**
3 **Washington, D.C. 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~~ provide Garrett
10 County residents with a choice to receive television broadcasts from stations
11 located in the Baltimore ~~and~~, Washington, D.C., or Pittsburgh ~~designated~~
12 television ~~broadcast~~ market areas.

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

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

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

EXPLANATION:

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken by amendment.



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

23 RESOLVED, That the Maryland Delegation to Congress is urged to encourage
24 the FCC to amend its television market determination regulations and to sponsor and
25 support any necessary legislation in the United States Congress to ~~allow~~ provide
26 Garrett County residents with a choice to receive broadcasts from stations located in
27 the Baltimore ~~and~~, Washington, D.C., or Pittsburgh television market areas; and be it
28 further

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

33 RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of
34 Legislative Services to the Maryland Congressional Delegation: Senators Barbara A.
35 Mikulski and Benjamin L. Cardin, Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510;
36 and Representatives Andrew P. Harris, C. A. Dutch Ruppertsberger III, John P.
37 Sarbanes, Donna Edwards, Steny Hamilton Hoyer, Roscoe G. Bartlett, Elijah E.

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1 Cummings, and Christopher Van Hollen, Jr., House Office Building, Washington, D.C.
2 20515; and be it further

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

Approved:

President of the Senate.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.