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United States Senate

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May 30, 2007

The Honorable Daniel Inouye
Chairman
Senate Committee on Commerce,
Science, and Transportation
254 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ted Stevens
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Commerce,
Science, and Transportation
254 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Inouye and Ranking Member Stevens:

I am writing to request that the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation hold a hearing to consider Senate Bill 124, the Satellite and Cable Access Act of 2007, which I introduced in January of this year.

The purpose of the bill is to give residents of southwestern Colorado the opportunity to receive Colorado, as opposed to only New Mexico, television stations. The issue stems from the fact that two Colorado counties, La Plata and Montezuma, are located in the Albuquerque, New Mexico, Designated Market Area (DMA). Consequently, current law prevents them from receiving Colorado television stations.

The approximately 26,000 television households in these two counties rely on television as a source of news, weather, entertainment, and information about their elected representatives and candidates for public office. Although Albuquerque is closer than Denver—by only about 70 miles—people in these communities are decidedly Coloradans and want the ability to receive Colorado stations. In fact, shortly after introduction of S. 124, I received a petition signed by over 4,000 southern Colorado residents in support of the legislation.

As you know from special provisions in the law relating to this issue for both Hawaii and Alaska, existing technology could easily bring Colorado stations to these households.

If the Committee believes that a field hearing would be beneficial to its understanding of this issue as it relates specifically to Colorado, I would be happy to help you facilitate such a hearing.

Thank you for your consideration of this legislation that, if enacted, would bring an end to the inequity suffered by constituents of my state.

Sincerely,



Wayne Allard
United States Senator

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