

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

## THE SATELLITE HOME VIEWERS ACT

**HON. RICK HILL**

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 9, 1999*

Mr. HILL of Montana. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to thank you for allowing me to take a moment to discuss an issue that is very near and dear to many Montanans hearts—their satellite service. Many Montanans and others in rural America have been contacting us regarding the dispute over distant network satellite service between local broadcasters and satellite providers. I share the concerns that many Montanans may be left without network signals if we do not take appropriate action.

In a state as large as Montana, there are many areas that cannot receive a decent broadcast signal of local television stations. For many, the only recourse is to invest in satellite equipment and programming packages in order to receive television programming. Recently, the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida (Case No. 96-3650-CIV-NESBITT) issued a preliminary injunction that requires the termination of network satellite service to over one million subscribers across the United States that fall within the "Grade B" contour.

The Satellite Broadcasting and Communications Association stated that the Satellite Home Viewer Act (SHVA) provides that Americans who cannot receive an acceptable signal over-the-air from their local network affiliate are classified as "unserved household" and are therefore, eligible to receive network service via satellite. An "unserved household" is one that cannot receive a television signal of "Grade B" intensity (as defined by the FCC). Grade B is a technical measurement used by the FCC to determine predictive signal distribution for tower placement for the broadcasters.

Because the SHVA does not provide clear guidance on which households may lawfully receive network signals by satellite, and no straightforward testing mechanism exists to ascertain which households are "served," there is confusion in the marketplace. Unfortunately, this leaves millions of consumers caught in the middle. Local broadcasters in Montana have assured me of their willingness to work with Montanans who are determined to be "served households" by the FCC, but do not actually receive a quality broadcast signal by individually testing service and issuing waivers to allow them to continue receiving network signals via satellite. And they will be trying to get a waiver to seek a waiver from his or her local television broadcaster, and provided certain criteria are met, may ensure the continued delivery of network programming service via satellite. I have urged many Montanans who do not receive a signal to contact their individual broadcast stations for a waiver. I have heard from many Montanans that some local broadcasters have been will-

ing to work with them, and unfortunately some haven't.

However, there are some cases that there is a unfair burden on the local broadcasters for them to go to every household to prove if they receive a signal. But we must take action to correct this very concerning problem.

I appreciate that the Subcommittee Chairman, Mr. BILLY TAUZIN, has focused his efforts to come up with a legislative fix to address this matter. On February 25th, Representative TAUZIN introduced the Save our Satellites Act (H.R. 851) that seeks to save network television signals for consumers who will unfairly lose access to satellite-delivered network programming. I am an original cosponsor of this legislation and fully support its passage.

The Save our Satellites Act preserves the status quo for 90 days so that a more reliable method of determining who is eligible to receive network programming can be implemented. This is a good first step toward defusing this emergency situation for rural satellite consumers. I look forward to working with Mr. TAUZIN and other Members of Congress to find common sense solutions to this very important issue.

## H.R. 474—FEDERAL CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTING

**HON. PATSY T. MINK**

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 9, 1999*

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, recently, I introduced legislation, H.R. 474, to help local contractors compete for military construction projects. The purpose of H.R. 474 is to address concerns raised by various unions, contractors, and the State of Hawaii, that local companies are not getting a fair shot at competing for military construction contracts. The ability of out-of-state contractors to ignore state tax and employment laws have allowed them to avoid costs that local companies have to meet and thereby outbid our local companies.

The problem of out of state contractors dodging state tax and employment laws was documented at the Congressional hearing I held on August 5, 1995, in Hawaii. H.R. 474 incorporates many of the suggestions and proposals made at this hearing on ways to make the bidding process more equitable for local companies.

H.R. 474 requires contractors to obtain a state tax clearance in order to be an eligible bidder on military construction projects; it requires them to obtain a state tax clearance and certify compliance with state employment laws in order to receive the final project payment; allows a military agency to withhold payment in order to meet state tax obligations; and it requires a contractor that has won a bid to obtain a state license in the state in which the work is to be performed, if that state requires such a license.

Military construction work is an important part of Hawaii's economy. Not only will Hawaii's local companies benefit from this legislation, but all local companies across the nation will have a fair chance to compete for these projects that are worth millions of dollars.

By joining me in supporting H.R. 474 we can provide the enforcement needed to make sure all bidders play by the same rules. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

## CONGRATULATING COMMON THREADS AWARD WINNERS

**HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 9, 1999*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in congratulate Muriel Smittcamp, Violet Jensen, Geneva Shannon, Jane Logoluso, and Mildred "Micki" Parker, the recipients of the Common Threads Award. This award is presented to women in agriculture who have made a remarkable contribution to their community through volunteer work and philanthropy.

Muriel Smittcamp, of Clovis, CA, began her career in agriculture, together with her husband Earl, in 1945, with the purchase of 200 acres. She has volunteered her time with many organizations including the Rancho Guild of Valley Children's Hospital (V.C.H.), the Holiday Guild, and the Fresno State Bulldog Foundation. Muriel is also a California State University, Fresno Alumni member, contributor and worker, and donates her services to the Clovis Library, the American Cancer Society and 4-H.

Violet Jensen, of Fresno, CA, became a farmer's wife when she married Oliver Jensen in 1948. She has actively participated in all phases of farm management including tractor driving, tying vines and harvesting crops. She has been a member of the Farm Bureau for 50 years during which she has held several committee chairs. Violet has been active in Raisin Wives, La Tienda Guild for V.C.H. and Twilight Haven. She was very active with the Raisin Queen Pageant and the Farm Bureau Princess Pageant.

Jane Logoluso Bautista, of Madera, CA, joined her father's farming operation in 1992. Prior to that she had a 20 year career in the health care industry. She is currently responsible for government relations, personnel, labor relations and special projects. Jane is vice-chair of the California Apple Commission, trustee for U.S. Apple Association and is secretary of the Nisei Farmers' League. She volunteers for the American Cancer Society and has served on the Kingsview Mental Health Corp.

Geneva Shannon, of Visalia, CA, grew up on a farm in Waukena, Ca. She married Eric Shannon in 1980, and together they continued their farming interests. She was involved in 4-

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