

House Concurrent Resolution No. 9

101ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE EGGLESTON.

1584H.02I

DANA RADEMAN MILLER, Chief Clerk

1 **WHEREAS**, the major broadcast networks of ABC, CBS, NBC, and Fox make
2 important news and entertainment accessible to the public; and

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4 **WHEREAS**, in exchange for a license to use the public airwaves, each television
5 broadcaster is required by law to operate its station in the public interest, convenience, and
6 necessity, which means the broadcaster must air programming that addresses the needs and
7 problems of its local community; and

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9 **WHEREAS**, federal statutes and Federal Communications Commission (FCC) rules
10 regarding carriage agreements require local broadcasters to contract with cable and satellite
11 television providers for no longer than three years; and

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13 **WHEREAS**, cable and satellite television providers are prohibited from rebroadcasting
14 local broadcasters without a contract; and

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16 **WHEREAS**, these federal laws and rules give local broadcasters a monopoly on
17 broadcasting the major networks in a community; and

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19 **WHEREAS**, these monopolies have forced cable and satellite television providers to
20 blackout local broadcasts when the television providers and local broadcasters cannot agree on
21 contract terms; and

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23 **WHEREAS**, these blackouts deprive customers of both major network programming and
24 local news, sports, and weather; and

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26 **WHEREAS**, since January 1, 2011, viewers in nearly every direct market area in the
27 nation have experienced a blackout of at least one local broadcaster by their cable or satellite
28 television provider for a period of time; and

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30 **WHEREAS**, since January 1, 2011, viewers in each direct market area in Missouri (Cape
31 Girardeau, Columbia, Jefferson City, Joplin, Kansas City, Kirksville, Springfield, St. Joseph, and
32 St. Louis) have experienced broadcaster blackouts of ABC, CBS, NBC, or Fox programming on
33 AT&T, Charter, DirecTV, DISH Network, Mediacom, or Time-Warner, totaling eight hundred
34 eighty-six blackout days; and

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36 **WHEREAS**, the blackouts and monopolistic power of local broadcasters have harmed
37 viewers with higher prices for subscription television; and

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39 **WHEREAS**, allowing television providers to offer an alternate major network from a
40 different city would not deprive consumers of the content of major broadcast networks and
41 would incentivize local broadcasters to complete negotiations without blackouts; and

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43 **WHEREAS**, allowing television carriers to offer an alternate major network from a
44 different city would still give local stations negotiating leverage since viewers would prefer a
45 local station to a distant one:

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47 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the members of the House of
48 Representatives of the One Hundred First General Assembly, First Regular Session, the Senate
49 concurring therein, hereby urge the United States Congress and the Federal Communications
50 Commission to change the laws regarding carriage agreements to allow television providers to
51 broadcast a major broadcast network from a different city during contract disputes with a local
52 broadcaster; and

53 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of
54 Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for the FCC
55 Chairman and the Missouri congressional delegation.

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