

House. As chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, I worked with Senator GRASSLEY on the copyright aspects of this legislation to focus on preventing disruption to consumers. Because of our work together, the Judiciary Committee unanimously reported its portion of this bill on June 26 and all of these provisions are in the bill the Senate will pass today.

Sending this bill to the President shows the American people that Congress can come together in a bipartisan and bicameral fashion to pass legislation. Vermonters who rely on the distant signal license for their broadcast programming can rest easy today knowing that their existing television stations will not disappear from their screens come December 31.

Over the years I have worked on the Judiciary Committee to ensure that all Vermonters have access to Vermont broadcast television stations. In previous reauthorizations, including STELA's most recent reauthorization in 2010, I have made it a priority to ensure that every Vermont satellite subscriber has the option to watch Vermont-focused programming. Local broadcast stations play an important role in informing and fostering a sense of community. This is particularly true in a small State like mine. I am proud to have made sure that residents in every corner of Vermont will continue to have a choice to see Vermont news.

The Judiciary Committee portion of this legislation reauthorizes the distant signal license for another 5 years. It is narrowly crafted to ensure that consumers do not see any disruption in service, but also designed to make sure that content holders who are paid royalties under this license continue to receive an annual cost of living adjustment beginning from the rate that is currently in place. The distant signal license is important to consumers. I recognize, however, that compulsory licenses do not always reflect the true market value of the content that is being licensed. The mechanisms to modestly increase the rate when appropriate remain in place. Through the Senate Judiciary Committee process, I worked with Senator DURBIN, who offered a non-controversial amendment to expand the carriage of low power television stations on cable systems. I was happy to support this amendment because improving the reach of these stations so that more viewers can see them will help to expand the diversity of voices available on cable. That is as important in Burlington, VT as it is in Chicago.

I share the concerns of several Senators who wanted this legislation to do more to promote competition. It is unfortunate that the House of Representatives would not agree to the Senate's stronger language in this regard, but I was willing to compromise because the threat of letting the law expire was too great. The language in the bill we will pass today is better than what was in the original House bill. Overall, this

legislation is a win for viewers in Vermont and across the country. I look forward to the President signing it into law.

Mr. ROCKFELLER. Mr. President, the bill being considered by the Senate today represents what can happen through hard work on both sides of the aisle and in both chambers of Congress. The STELA Reauthorization Act of 2014 will make sure that 1.5 million Americans do not lose access to distant broadcast network signals at the end of the year. It also adopts a number of pro-consumer video policy reforms, many of which originated in the bill that Senator THUNE and I worked diligently to pass through the Senate Commerce Committee. I am proud of this legislation, and pleased that it has garnered the unanimous support of both the House and the Senate.

I know not everyone in this body agreed with all of the specific policy provisions in the bill before us. But such is the nature of legislative compromise. I was sympathetic with many of those policy concerns, but failing to reauthorize STELA and disenfranchising millions of television viewers simply was not an option. I appreciate my colleagues' recognition of this important fact.

I want to thank Senator THUNE, as always, for his willingness to work with me in a strong bipartisan manner throughout this year-long reauthorization effort. I also want to thank Senators LEAHY and GRASSLEY for their good work and contributions to this must-pass legislation. And I am grateful to Representatives Upton, Waxman, Walden, and Eshoo for working with us in good faith to find consensus on an eminently reasonable compromise bill.

Of course, legislation of this magnitude does not come about without dedicated and savvy staff. So, we all owe a debt of gratitude to the tireless efforts of Ellen Doneski, John Branscome, Shawn Bone, David Quinalty, and Hap Rigby, as well as House Energy and Commerce staff David Redl, Grace Koh, Ray Baum, Shawn Chang, Margaret McCarthy, and David Grossman. Their commitment to public service is commendable, and the American people ultimately will benefit from their work.

This legislation, and the debate around it, has started what I believe will be a lasting conversation about the future of the video marketplace. Today's action takes positive steps toward a more consumer-centric video policy in this country. More importantly, it also represents what can be accomplished when we all go about our business legislating in a practical and productive way.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read three times and passed, and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 5728) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE GOALS OF NATIONAL ADOPTION DAY AND NATIONAL ADOPTION MONTH

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the HELP Committee be discharged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 580.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 580) expressing support for the goals of National Adoption Day and National Adoption Month by promoting national awareness of adoption and the children awaiting families, celebrating children and families involved in adoption, and encouraging the people of the United States to secure safety, permanency, and well-being for all children.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 580) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of Monday, November 17, 2014, under "Submitted Resolutions.")

DRIVE SAFER SUNDAY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of and the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 583.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 583) designating November 30, 2014 as "Drive Safer Sunday."

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 583) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

ACCESS TO HOSPITALS AND OTHER HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS IN RURAL AREAS

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 588, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 588) recognizing that access to hospitals and other health care providers for patients in rural areas of the United States is essential to the survival and success of communities in the United States.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 588) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

HONORING THE LIFE OF THOMAS M. MENINO

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 589.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 589) honoring the life of Thomas M. Menino, Mayor of Boston, Massachusetts, from 1993 to 2014.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 589) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

NATIONAL NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 590.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 590) recognizing National Native American Heritage Month and celebrating the heritage and cultures of Native Americans and the contributions of Native Americans to the United States.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, each November, we reflect on the tremendous contributions Native Americans have made and continue to make to our nation. As chairman of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, I am honored to continue that tradition by introducing this resolution, along with 26 of my colleagues from both sides of the aisle, honoring National Native American Heritage Month.

Native Americans have contributed immeasurably to the character and culture of the United States. They played an instrumental role as code talkers in both World Wars by using their Native languages on the battlefield, and to this day, they continue to serve in the military at a higher rate per capita than any other group in the country. In my home State of Montana, I am proud to represent more than 5,000 Native American veterans, as well as eight great tribal nations.

As we celebrate and commemorate the rich and diverse cultures and traditions of Native Americans nationwide, it is important to acknowledge the enduring challenges many tribal communities face in meeting the education, healthcare and general welfare needs of their people.

This month is an opportunity to recommit to strengthening the government-to-government relationship between tribes and the United States. It is also a reminder that the Federal government has treaty and trust obligations to the 566 Federally recognized tribes, and we must do more to ensure they have the tools they need to build stronger and healthier communities.

I look forward to continuing my work with Indian Country, and I hope my colleagues and the American people will join me in celebrating the accomplishments of Native Americans, not just this month, but throughout the year.

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. President, each November, we recognize National Native American Heritage Month to celebrate the heritage and culture of the great nations that originally inhabited this country. During this month, we should reflect on the numerous achievements made over the previous year. Each day, individuals and organizations across Indian Country continually tackle tough issues and strive to make significant impacts for their people and tribes. It is these efforts that show the strength and vitality of Indian Country.

This year, across the Nation, Native American movements have unified and rallied the Native voice on several important issues to Indian Country. Thousands of individuals have come together on the steps of the U.S. Capitol to share their views on environmental protections, treaty rights and the use of a racial slur by a professional sports league. A grassroots movement in South Dakota also spurred voters living on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation to get out the vote and approve the change of their county name from

Shannon County to Oglala Lakota County. These actions reflect a positive drive in the Native community; a drive that tribal, local, State and Federal Governments cannot simply ignore.

As sovereign nations, tribes have the ability to empower and govern their own people. Native American leaders in South Dakota and across the country have recognized that preserving their culture is vital to future growth and success. Native languages are being revitalized and tribal cultures are being infused into programs. With its treaty and trust responsibility, the Federal Government must support this continued progress. I have always fully believed that the best ideas come from tribal governments and leaders, and not from Washington, DC. We must continue to work together to understand and implement successful approaches.

South Dakota is home to nine treaty tribes, each with its own distinct culture and heritage. Throughout my years of service, I have had the opportunity to work closely with many leaders from each reservation. I would like to personally honor each of the South Dakota tribes: Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, the Crow Creek Sioux Tribe, the Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe, the Lower Brule Sioux Tribe, the Oglala Sioux Tribe, the Rosebud Sioux Tribe, the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate, the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, and the Yankton Sioux Tribe.

With the commencement of the National Native American Heritage Month, I encourage everyone to join in commemorating the unique culture of the indigenous peoples of the United States. Throughout the country, numerous tribes and organizations are coordinating educational events and celebrations. While the month of November is in tribute of traditions and accomplishments of tribal nations, it is important to contemplate the many more undertakings that must be addressed. We must all continue to work together to find positive solutions for Indian Country.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 590) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")