

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.")