

In Wyoming, 18 of 23 counties cannot receive local, in-state stations via satellite. The only counties with in-state coverage are: Fremont, Natrona, Washakie, Hot Springs, and Converse - all other counties do not receive any local stations through their satellite providers (DISH Network or Direct TV). In 2008, Wyoming PBS had eighty-nine Wyoming legislators sign a resolution encouraging Congress to change the law to require mandatory satellite carriage of in-state stations to all the state's citizens -- unfortunately because of lobbying by satellite companies, that didn't happen. But in 2014, in the most recent authorization of STELAR, the bill had one additional proviso...that the FCC would be required to compile a report on how this bill impacted "localism". So the FCC opened a comment period for us to tell them how this satellite bill is effecting us - and I hope, if you can, you will send a quick message to the FCC saying that Wyoming people deserve to watch in-state stations to get local documentaries, news, weather, public affairs information, shows about their legislature, election debates, emergency broadcasts, etc. Being locked out of local television is a huge disservice to the citizens of Wyoming; that STELAR, in its present form, is very negatively impacting localism - and both commercial and non-commercial local stations should be treated the same, and carried on satellite.