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Wyoming is a very rural state with many relatively isolated populations. Satellite usage by these rural residents is predominant. Of the 23 Wyoming counties, only 5 are able to receive Wyoming Public broadcasting programs and information. Access to Wyoming PBS and local stations for news, weather, local community information and emergency alerts is essential. Presently, satellite providers (Direct TV and Dish) use the Nielsen Ratings service designated market areas (DMA's) as their guide to provide local programming and PBS stations to their customers. In some states that might not be a problem, but in Wyoming there are 7 DMA's, 6 of which are tied to out-of-state stations and markets, and therefore provide only out-of-state programming and emergency alerts. As such, the satellite providers generally provide local and PBS programming to their customers based on the Nielsen DMA's they are in (Salt Lake, Billings, Rapid City, Denver, Idaho Falls and Scottsbluff) and not on the customers' actual Wyoming location. While Wyoming's rural spaces created this anomaly, now is the time to fix this issue and provide local service to the more than 200,000 Wyoming residents that are currently deprived of local services by their satellite provider.

I would request a provision or stipulation to the extension of The Satellite Television Extension and Localism Act (2014) that these providers offer Wyoming PBS and local channels based on the customer's location and not the obligatory DMA. Your consideration of this request is greatly appreciated.