

TAPE FOR WEEK OF MARCH 17

THIS IS YOUR CONGRESSMAN NICK RAHALL.

MANY SATELLITE SUBSCRIPTION SERVICES HAVE BEGUN TO SCRAMBLE THEIR SIGNALS, DENYING BASIC TELEVISION SERVICE TO THE RURAL RESIDENTS SO PREVALENT IN WEST VIRGINIA. THOSE WHO OWN SATELLITE DISHES POSSESS RIGHTS WHICH MUST BE PROTECTED.

I RECENTLY BECAME A COSPONSOR OF SEVERAL PIECES OF LEGISLATION AIMED AT PROTECTING THESE RIGHTS AND PROVIDING US WITH A SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM OF SCRAMBLING AND MAKE THESE SERVICES AVAILABLE TO RURAL CUSTOMERS AT A REASONABLE COST AND TO ENSURE ADEQUATE SERVICE.

THE VAST MAJORITY OF HOMEOWNERS ARE WILLING TO PAY FOR THE PROGRAMS THEY RECEIVE, YET CABLE COMPANIES REFUSE TO LAY CABLE IN RURAL OR UNPOULATED AREAS, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME THEY WANT TO DISCOURAGE DISH OWNERS IN THESE SAME AREAS FROM VIEWING THESE PROGRAMS.

I HOPE THAT THROUGH THIS ACTION, WE WILL BE ABLE TO SOLVE THE PROBLEMS POSED BY SCRAMBLING WHILE AT THE SAME TIME PROTECTING THE RIGHTS OF ALL PARTIES CONCERNED.

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