

SENATE RESOLUTION
8655

By Senator Fraser

1 WHEREAS, For 20 years TVW has opened state government to the
2 people of Washington, offering unedited "gavel-to-gavel" coverage of
3 government deliberations and public policy events of statewide
4 significance since signal activation on April 10, 1995; and

5 WHEREAS, TVW was the brainchild of Congressman Denny Heck, who
6 currently represents Washington's 10th Congressional District, and
7 previously served as majority leader in the Washington State House of
8 Representatives and chief of staff to Governor Booth Gardner and
9 veteran state government official Stan Marshburn; and

10 WHEREAS, TVW's founders believed that the people of Washington
11 deserved to be able to watch their elected officials in action, even
12 if they could not be physically present in Olympia; and

13 WHEREAS, Since its inception, TVW has televised well over 30,000
14 hours of public policy proceedings, including coverage of the
15 legislative, executive, and judicial branches of government, state
16 agencies, state elections, and public policy events hosted by
17 nongovernmental organizations; and

18 WHEREAS, The first event televised by TVW was a death penalty
19 case before the Washington State Supreme Court, through which TVW
20 also made history with the first-ever televised state court
21 proceeding; and

22 WHEREAS, TVW televises all floor debates in the Washington State
23 Senate and House of Representatives, offers live and archived

1 coverage of all committee hearings in the Senate and House of
2 Representatives via television or webcast on-demand, and archives all
3 of its coverage for citizens to view online, on-demand; and

4 WHEREAS, When the Legislature is not meeting in Olympia, TVW's
5 mobile camera units cover legislative and public policy events across
6 Washington, which are available on TVW's increasingly popular web
7 site, tvw.org, which handles over 5 million online plays of its
8 videos each year, with demand continuing to grow steadily; and

9 WHEREAS, The cable television industry carries TVW for free,
10 giving TVW \$7 million per year in free carriage and enabling TVW to
11 reach two-thirds of state residents via television; and

12 WHEREAS, TVW allows the news media free access to its footage,
13 making it easier for television, radio, and newspaper reporters to
14 cover state government even when not physically present at the
15 Capitol; and

16 WHEREAS, TVW educates young people about civics and government
17 through its free civics education programs for teachers and students
18 throughout the state, including its "Teach with TVW" web site,
19 innovative "Capitol Classroom" program, and award-winning "Engaged:
20 Students Becoming Citizens" video series; and

21 WHEREAS, TVW produces award-winning shows, including *Inside*
22 *Olympia*, *The Impact*, and *Legislative Review*, which highlight key
23 legislative debates and decisions; and

24 WHEREAS, TVW has won four regional Emmy Awards in its history,
25 including three Emmy Awards in the last two years; and

26 WHEREAS, During its 20 years of service, TVW has had four
27 distinguished presidents, including Congressman Denny Heck; Cindy
28 Zehnder, former Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives; Greg
29 Lane, Deputy Secretary of State; and former State Representative
30 Renee Radcliff Sinclair; and

31 WHEREAS, TVW has employed a highly talented and dedicated staff
32 who share a commitment to the organization's mission, with special
33 recognition owed to 20-year employee Scott Chisa, programming
34 coordinator, and 17-year employee Anthony Arenas, operations
35 supervisor, who are the two longest serving TVW employees;

36 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State Senate
37 congratulate TVW on 20 years of service to the people of Washington
38 State; and

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
2 immediately transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate to TVW's
3 president and CEO, and the TVW Board of Directors.

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