

No. R-71. Senate concurrent resolution congratulating Onion River Community Access Media on its silver anniversary.

(S.C.R.9)

By Senators Doyle, Cummings and Pollina,

By Representatives Kitzmiller and Hooper of Montpelier,

Whereas, in the Cable Communications Act of 1984 (Pub. L. 98-549), Congress provided in section 2 that a cable television “franchising authority may establish requirements in a franchise with respect to designation or use of channel capacity for public, educational or governmental use” (known as PEG channels or services), and

Whereas, in 1985, Cox Cable, the owner of the cable television system serving Montpelier, began hosting a PEG production and transmission facility at its Berlin offices, and

Whereas, after Adelphia Cable assumed ownership of Montpelier’s cable system, it continued managing the PEG services, but the trend was emerging nationwide for PEG production and transmission centers to be operated independently of a cable company, and

Whereas, in September 2003, Onion River Cable Access Media Inc. (ORCA Media) was established, and on February 3, 2004, this new organization was granted a contract to serve as the PEG operator in Montpelier, and

Whereas, just weeks later, on March 13, 2004, ORCA Media Inc. moved all aspects of the Berlin PEG operation to a more publicly accessible new home at City Center in downtown Montpelier, and

Whereas, in addition to the city of Montpelier, ORCA Media Inc. now serves as the PEG provider for cable viewers in Berlin, Bethel, Braintree, Calais, Duxbury, East Montpelier, Middlesex, Moretown, Randolph, Rochester, Waterbury, and Worcester, and

Whereas, ORCA Media Inc.'s three channels, 15, 16, and 17, provide multiple types of programs, including in-studio productions, live coverage of Montpelier City Council and other capital city governance panels, artistic, athletic, and governmental (including state legislative) programs, as well as externally created videos and program services, and

Whereas, through the Vermont Media Exchange, ORCA Media Inc. can transmit programs to other Vermont PEGS, and the Internet is becoming an increasingly important technical tool for receiving and transmitting programs to viewers, and

Whereas, the great work of Executive Director Kenric Kite, Technical Director Madhavan S. Nair, Office Manager Joanne Crowley-Watkins, and Outreach Coordinator Tim Tavcar, and the supportive guidance of board chair John Bloch and his colleagues, Mike Abadi, Senator Bill Doyle, Mike Doyle, Esther Farnsworth, and Frederick Weston, have enabled ORCA Media Inc. to become one of Vermont's premier PEG systems, and

Whereas, on Saturday, July 10, 2010, ORCA Media Inc celebrated its silver anniversary with festivities on the Vermont College of Fine Arts field, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates Onion River Community Access Media Inc. on its silver anniversary, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Kenric Kite at ORCA Media Inc. in Montpelier.