

By: Senator(s) Bryan, Whaley, Parker,  
Williams, Chism, McMahan

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 7

1 A RESOLUTION URGING TELEVISION STATION WTVA CHANNEL 9 IN  
2 TUPELO, MISSISSIPPI, TO RETAIN ITS LIFE-SAVING METEOROLOGY  
3 OPERATION.

4 WHEREAS, in 1956, the late Frank Spain obtained a license to  
5 operate a television station in Tupelo, Mississippi. In 1957,  
6 that station, known as WTWV, began operating on Channel 9 in  
7 Tupelo; and

8 WHEREAS, since that time Channel 9, now known as WTVA, has  
9 been an integral part of the community, providing excellent local  
10 news, weather and sports for decades; and

11 WHEREAS, the current license holder, Allen Media  
12 Broadcasting, located in Los Angeles, California, has indicated it  
13 will dismiss the local meteorology team in Tupelo and replace it  
14 with reports from a remote location; and

15 WHEREAS, residents of Northeast Mississippi turn to WTVA for  
16 critical weather reports during times of threatening weather; and

17 WHEREAS, in particular, in 2014 when a tornado actually hit  
18 the broadcast studio of WTVA, and again in 2023 when a devastating



19 tornado left a path of destruction in Amory and Monroe County,  
20 Mississippi, the timely reports from WTVB saved the lives of those  
21 who took shelter because of the reports on WTVB; and

22 WHEREAS, Meteorologist Matt Laubhan won an Emmy Award for his  
23 reporting in 2014; and

24 WHEREAS, the reputation and the credibility of WTVB has  
25 developed over the decades, and cannot be replaced with reports  
26 from remote locations by individuals who do not live in the area:

27 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
28 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby implore Allen Media to reconsider  
29 its decision and to retain the life-saving meteorology operation  
30 at WTVB.

31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be forwarded to  
32 the General Manager of WTVB Channel 9 and Matt Laubhan, and be  
33 made available to the Capitol Press Corps.

