

[REDACTED]
Helena, MT 59601
[REDACTED]

I WATCH C-SPAN

I watch C-SPAN because C-SPAN is my picture window to the world. The programs focus on current issues and present a wide spectrum of viewpoints on both national and international problems.

C-SPAN's diverse programming enables me to see programs that other networks cannot or will not provide. It gives me an opportunity to see and hear people that I would have little chance of viewing anywhere else. In this presidential election year I am enjoying the political debates, caucuses, speeches, and press conferences, and I am delighted by the more unusual offerings such as the political satire I recently watched. However, I rely on the regular programming for the bulk of my information gathering.

By watching C-SPAN I have a chance to view my government at work. I can see the House of Representatives in session, zero in on committee hearings, and tally votes on important bills. I can watch the actions and interactions of people and become aware of some of their strengths and foibles. They become more human and thus more real to me. Their statements and actions, therefore, become more important to me.

I appreciate getting verbatim statements as I do on C-SPAN rather than a rehash, synopsis, or analysis by people whose remarks may be biased. I enjoy having the

opportunity on various programs to call in with opinions and questions as well as the chance to hear what other viewers say (even when I do not agree with them).

The variety of programming provided by C-SPAN creates more awareness of and interest in the government, the nation and the world. The in-depth reports often open up an entirely new point of view on a particular subject, forcing me to reconsider my position. I find that the programs sharpen my wits and whet my appetite for information. As a result, I become better informed on a variety of subjects, take more interest in what my government is doing, and acquire a global awareness that helps put current events in perspective.

One disadvantage of living in Montana is its great distance from Washington, D.C. Although many in the government there consider those of us who live in the Mountain States provincial in our thinking, nothing could be further from the truth. We are deeply concerned about our nation's future as well as that of the entire world because we are an integral part of both. Since there is little opportunity to hear directly from those in positions of power, I watch C-SPAN because it presents me with a unique opportunity to learn about people, events, places, and problems that vitally affect me. C-SPAN is literally my picture window to the world.

[REDACTED]
Helena, Montana 59601

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