

5/16/2003 Moran Announces Grant for Smoky Hills Public Television

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\$269,725 in Federal Funding for Digital Conversation

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Congressman Jerry Moran today announced that Smoky Hills Public Television (SHPTV) has received a \$269,725 grant to assist in the conversion to a digital signal. The funding was issued through the Public Telecommunications Facilities Program.

"Public television provides quality programming, news and information to people across the state," Moran said. "This funding will help Smoky Hills update their technology and complete the conversion to a digital signal, ensuring that the station will be there to serve future generations."

SHPTV, like all television stations, faces the FCC mandate to convert from the current analog service to a digital signal. The funding will help the station meet the requirement of transmitting a digital signal from the station's three transmitters by May of this year.

Digital broadcasting will mean a greatly improved picture and sound for the viewer. Multicasting, high-definition broadcasting, data delivery and rural broadband services will all be delivered with a digital signal.

"Technology is developing at such a tremendous rate that it's difficult to guess what changes we'll see even in the near future, with services and options yet to be developed," said Richard Hicks, General Manager of SHPTV. "Receiving this

funding and meeting the first deadline requirements are an important step in the conversion process. We are very grateful to the state of Kansas and to the federal government for their assistance in funding this new service for the people of central and western Kansas."

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