

1 **PHILO T. FARNSWORTH CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

2 2011 GENERAL SESSION

3 STATE OF UTAH

4 **Chief Sponsor: Dennis E. Stowell**

5 House Sponsor: Michael E. Noel

7 **LONG TITLE**

8 **General Description:**

9 This concurrent resolution of the Legislature and the Governor recognizes Utah native
10 Philo T. Farnsworth as the inventor of television.

11 **Highlighted Provisions:**

12 This resolution:

13 ▶ recognizes Philo T. Farnsworth for his pioneering work in the invention of the
14 television and for his many other inventions that have impacted the lives of millions
15 of people around the world.

16 **Special Clauses:**

17 None

19 *Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah, the Governor concurring therein:*

20 WHEREAS, few inventors have impacted the world as much as has Utah native Philo
21 T. Farnsworth;

22 WHEREAS, Philo T. Farnsworth has deep roots in Beaver, Utah, where he was born
23 August 19, 1906, in a log cabin;

24 WHEREAS, when he was 12, Philo T. Farnsworth's family moved to a farm in Rigby,
25 Idaho, where he was fascinated by the electricity that powered his new home;

26 WHEREAS, Farnsworth was intrigued by mechanical and electrical technology and
27 managed to convert his mother's hand-powered washing machine to an electric-powered
28 appliance;

29 WHEREAS, as a youth living in Beaver, Utah, Farnsworth won a national contest for a

30 theft-proof car lock;

31 WHEREAS, at the age of 14, Philo T. Farnsworth startled one of his high school
32 teachers by sharing with him a diagram of an Electronic Image Dissector, a key component in
33 his eventual invention of television;

34 WHEREAS, at age 16, Farnsworth's father died of pneumonia and Farnsworth had to
35 care for his mother and four siblings;

36 WHEREAS, after spending a few years in the United States Navy, Farnsworth was
37 honorably discharged and once again pursued his interest in electronics;

38 WHEREAS, Farnsworth found investors who were not only willing to help him pursue
39 his work in electronics but also provided a laboratory in Los Angeles where Farnsworth was
40 able to conduct important experiments;

41 WHEREAS, before relocating to California, Farnsworth married Elma "Pem" Gardner,
42 the sister of a close friend of his;

43 WHEREAS, within a few months after arriving in California, Farnsworth's success led
44 him to apply for several patents for his designs and models;

45 WHEREAS, on September 7, 1927, at a laboratory in San Francisco, Farnsworth's
46 image dissector camera tube transmitted its first image, a straight line;

47 WHEREAS, in 1928, Farnsworth gave the first demonstration of his television system
48 to the press, and after several improvements, gave his first demonstration to the public in 1934;

49 WHEREAS, Farnsworth formed his own company, prevailed in key patent lawsuits
50 against competitors, and developed other important inventions, including a process for
51 sterilizing milk using radio waves and a fog-penetrating beam for ships and airplanes;

52 WHEREAS, in 1938, Farnsworth established the Farnsworth Television and Radio
53 Corporation, which was in turn purchased by International Telephone and Telegraph (ITT) in
54 1951;

55 WHEREAS, while in the employ of ITT, Farnsworth developed many more inventions,
56 including a defense early warning signal, submarine detection devices, radar calibration
57 equipment, an infrared telescope, and a PPI Projector, which allowed safe control of air traffic

58 from the ground and was a forerunner of today's air traffic control system;

59 WHEREAS, later in life, the Farnsworths relocated to Utah, where Philo passed away
60 in 1971;

61 WHEREAS, for many years after his death, Elma Farnsworth worked hard to help her
62 deceased husband retain his rightful place in history;

63 WHEREAS, crediting his wife's contribution to his life's work, Farnsworth once stated,
64 "My wife and I started this TV";

65 WHEREAS, in 1999, Time Magazine included Farnsworth in the "Time 100: The Most
66 Important People of the Century";

67 WHEREAS, the log cabin where Philo T. Farnsworth was born has been restored and
68 can be visited by the public; and

69 WHEREAS, a statue of Philo T. Farnsworth is one of two statues representing the state
70 of Utah in the National Statuary Hall Collection in the United States Capitol, a second statue of
71 Farnsworth stands in the Utah State Capitol, and a third statue stands in his hometown of
72 Beaver:

73 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah, the
74 Governor concurring therein, recognize the life and contributions of Philo T. Farnsworth, Utah
75 native, the inventor of television and of many other inventions that have benefitted millions of
76 people around the world.

77 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the President of
78 the United States, the members of Utah's congressional delegation, the Farnsworth family, the
79 Utah Travel Council, AAA, the tourism directors of each county in Utah, Beaver County, and
80 Beaver City.