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1 SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. **102**

2 BY BOSWELL, McLAREN, BARTZ, JENSEN, TAYLOR,

3 HORN, FRAISE, GRONSTAL, RITTMER, MURPHY,

4 GETTINGS, HUSAK, PRIEBE, SZYMONIAK, SORENSEN,

5 GIANNETTO, JUDGE, DRAKE, VILSACK, ROSENBERG,

6 RIORDAN, FINK, DIELEMAN, and KIBBIE

7 A Concurrent Resolution supporting the termination of a

8 contract to sell the WOI-TV station.

9 WHEREAS, the Iowa State Board of Regents can ter-

10 minate its contract to sell the WOI-TV station legally

11 and without penalty through exercising certain

12 provisions of the contract; and

13 WHEREAS, the value of the station as provided in

14 the contract is much less than its present value; and

15 WHEREAS, the annual profit of the station this year

16 will be almost double that of the previous year,

17 making the station an even more profitable enterprise

18 for the state; and

19 WHEREAS, the Board of Regents may have incurred an

20 increased income tax liability to the federal govern-

21 ment through corporate reorganization and control of

22 the station; and

23 WHEREAS, Boston University has recently acquired

24 two commercial television stations in the Boston

25 metropolitan area, anticipating further development of

26 television as a means of education and information

27 transfer, and no university has sold its commercial

28 television station; and

29 WHEREAS, the sale of the WOI-TV station is opposed

30 by the president, the faculty, and the students of

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1 Iowa State University and has not received the consent
2 of the General Assembly; and

3 WHEREAS, thirteen former members of the Board of
4 Regents have voiced their opposition to the sale of
5 the WOI-TV station; and

6 WHEREAS, a conversion to high-definition television
7 transmission is well within the financial capacity of
8 the station; and

9 WHEREAS, sale of the station, a self-supporting
10 broadcast laboratory, which Iowa State University
11 built and has operated since 1950, will do irreparable
12 damage to the educational programs in
13 telecommunication arts, broadcast journalism,
14 electronic media studies, meteorological education,
15 domestic extension services, international outreach
16 via satellite, and communications research; and

17 WHEREAS, the New York media investment firm con-
18 tracting for the purchase of the WOI-TV station has a
19 record in its acquisitions of restructuring,
20 downsizing, and eliminating jobs and public service
21 programming in order to maximize return; NOW

22 THEREFORE,

23 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, THE HOUSE OF
24 REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That it is the intent of
25 the Iowa General Assembly that the WOI-TV station
26 should not be sold and that the preliminary contract
27 to sell the station to the New York media investment
28 firm is not in the best interests of the state of Iowa
29 and should be terminated under its own terms.

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