

## Alaska Telecom Association

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February 9, 2018

The Honorable Senator Peter Micciche  
State Capitol, Room 508  
Juneau, AK 99801

The Honorable Senator Cathy Giessel  
State Capitol, Room 427  
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: SB173 Liability: Pesticides & Utility Poles

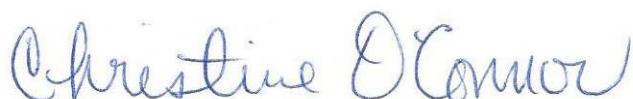
Dear Senator Micciche, Senator Giessel, and Members of the Committee,

Alaska Telecom Association is the statewide association of telecommunications providers in Alaska. Our members provide internet, telephone, and wireless service throughout Alaska.

ATA supports Senate Bill 173, which would protect our members from significant regulatory expenses from the use of federally regulated pesticides on wood utility poles. ATA members are devoting all possible resources to operating and deploying broadband-capable networks, and are under stringent federal mandate to advance broadband service. Wood poles are an important component of that infrastructure and it is important that additional costs are not added. SB173 provides an important safeguard against diversion of resources to unnecessary regulatory costs, resources which are critically needed to advance broadband service.

Thank you for your attention to SB173 and our comments.

Respectfully submitted,



Christine O'Connor  
Executive Director