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Honorable Mia Costello
Chair, Senate Labor and Commerce
Alaska State Capitol
Room 504
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: Support for Senate Bill 205 – Telecommunications Regulations/Exemptions

Committee Chair Costello:

On behalf of AT&T, please accept this letter of support regarding Senate Bill 205– Telecommunications Regulations/Exemptions – a bill relating to the Regulatory Commission of Alaska; and relating to telecommunications regulations, exemptions, charges, and rates. This bill maintains important consumer protections, appropriate RCA jurisdiction, and consistency with FCC regulations while providing industry with greater flexibility to more rapidly take advantage of new technology.

AT&T provides a wide range of services to our customers in Alaska, including wireless, inter-exchange long distance, and enterprise data services.

AT&T supports SB205 and believes, along with other Alaska telecommunications companies, that the bill provides an opportunity to modernize and update Alaska's telecommunications statutes. Many of the Alaska statutes at issue have not been addressed since the 1990s – over 25 years ago. A lot has happened in the telecommunications industry in the last 25 years. In the 1990s in Alaska there was no competition for long distance service in rural communities. Wireless was a nascent industry. Now, more people are using wireless than traditional wireline phones. As of June 2017, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) report that more than one-half of the American homes (52.5%) had only wireless telephones. Nearly three-quarters of all adults aged 25-34 were living in wireless only households. In Alaska the CDC reports that 51.9% of adults were in wireless-only homes with another 18.4% living in wireless-mostly homes. According to the report by the Alaska Universal Service Administrative Company wireless revenues (\$100.4M) greatly surpass interexchange carrier revenue (\$14.4M) and also exceeded local revenue in the state (\$81.3M). Alaska's statute's need to change to reflect the changes in the telecommunications industry.

SB 205 is a good start to reforming the telecommunications laws in Alaska.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shawn Uschmann", written over a horizontal line.

Shawn Uschmann
AT&T