



April 2, 2018

Honorable Neal Foster
Co-Chair, Finance
Alaska State Capitol
Room 410
Juneau, AK 99801

Honorable Paul Seaton
Co-Chair, Finance
Alaska State Capitol
Room 505
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: Opposition House Bill 277 – Broadband Internet: Neutrality/Regulation

Committee Co-Chair Foster and Co-Chair Seaton:

On behalf of Alaska Communications, please accept this letter of opposition regarding House Bill 277 – Broadband Internet: Neutrality/Regulation -- a bill that proposes to regulate internet service providers at the state level to ensure a free and open internet. While history has shown that the internet will remain free and open even without regulation, Alaska Communications supports appropriately tailored federal legislation to ensure internet openness and to end the uncertainty from over a decade of FCC rule changes. The nature of the internet is inherently interstate, a web of interconnected networks that spans across state, and even national borders. Accordingly, any such legislation must be adopted by Congress to ensure a consistent approach across all states. Alaska should urge its congressional delegation to craft federal open internet legislation.

Alaska Communications offers broadband service in an open and transparent way:

- We do not block websites.
- We do not censor online content.
- We do not throttle or degrade internet traffic based on content.
- We do not unfairly discriminate in our transmission of internet traffic.

These commitments are published on our website and readily available for consumers to review.

In addition to making these commitments, Alaska Communications supports a legislative solution in Congress that would make these core consumer protections permanent, while preserving incentives to invest and innovate. Congressional action ensures uniformity of the rules that regulate the internet. Attempts by individual states to pass disparate legislation can result in a patchwork of possibly inconsistent state laws. Instead, we need strong and permanent rules across the internet ecosystem to help create a stable regulatory environment that encourages investment in next generation technologies and the delivery of innovative services.

Alaska Communications fully supports Congress adopting basic rules to permanently ensure that the internet remains an open and flourishing platform for all users. That action needs to be taken by Congress, so that consumers can expect and rely on rules that will stand up to the changes of political winds and elections of new administrations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Leonard A. Steinberg", is written over the typed name and title.

Leonard A. Steinberg

Senior Vice President, Legal, Regulatory & Government
Affairs & Corporate Secretary