

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Session

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Resources Committee

State Affairs Committee

Joint Armed Services Committee

Judiciary Committee

SENATOR BILL WIELECHOWSKI

Sponsor Statement

Senate Bill 13- Warrantless Search of Electronic Data

This bipartisan bill would protect Alaskans' civil liberties by barring state and municipal agencies from cooperating with federal authorities seeking electronic records on an Alaskan resident, unless the federal government first obtains a warrant.

The bill seeks to limit unconstitutional overreach by the National Security Agency (NSA). Many legal scholars believe the mass surveillance activities secretly conducted by the NSA violate the Fourth Amendment to the Constitution's ban on unreasonable searches and seizures. At least one federal judge has ruled that the broad and untargeted surveillance is unconstitutional, calling it "almost Orwellian."

The spy agency has been compiling phone, text, email and Internet data on American citizens within the United States. In many cases, the agency obtains the data without a warrant and with the help of cooperating entities. This bill would ban such cooperation by state agencies and local governments in Alaska.

Legislation must defend the constitutional rights of Alaskans and Americans. Widespread, indiscriminant eavesdropping on the private communications of innocent Americans violates one of our most cherished constitutional rights, and no Alaskan should stand for it.

I hope you will join me in protecting Alaskans' most basic and essential rights.