

**Microcom • 129 West 53<sup>rd</sup> Avenue • Anchorage, Alaska 99518**

April 2, 2017

Representative David Talerico  
State Capitol Room 110  
Juneau AK, 99801

Dear Representative Talerico,

We fully support the changes you, Representative Drummond, and Representative Chenault have proposed for electrical contracting. This properly classifies our industry and updates Alaska Statutes to reflect the direct to consumer and business telecommunications, broadband, and video industry and where it should be in the regulatory structure.

Thank you for your assistance and we stand ready to help move this forward.

Best regards,

Sandra Blinstrubas  
President  
Microcom  
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Anchorage, AK 99518  
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# Chena Holdings, Inc.

*An Employee Owned Company*

*P O Box 58740*

*2040 Richardson Highway*

*Fairbanks, AK. 99711*

*907-488-1505*

*North Pole, AK. 99711*

April 10, 2017

Representative Dave Talerico  
State of Alaska  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

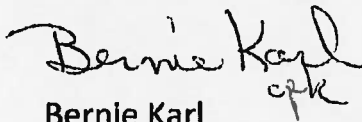
Dear Representative Talerico:

We are writing this letter in support of House Bill 206. We are totally in support of the exemption for low voltage installers from the contractor requirements as well as the exemption for low voltage installers from electrical administrator requirements.

I have personal knowledge how this would be devastating to hundreds of communication dish installers in Bush Alaska. As you are well aware, there is very little employment in Bush Alaska to start with. Without these exemptions, I personally know of 400 people who would lose their livelihoods.

Thank you for your support of this Bill 206.

Sincerely,



Bernie Karl  
President

bk/cpk

## **Elijah Verhagen**

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**From:** Craig Mapes <mapescr@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 10, 2017 6:56 PM  
**To:** Elijah Verhagen  
**Cc:** Brian Ashton  
**Subject:** HB 206

**To:** Energy Committee Alaska State House of Representatives  
**From:** Craig Mapes PO Box 46, Tenakee Springs, Alaska 99841  
**Date:** April 10, 2017  
**Subject:** HB 206

To the Honorable House Members on the Energy Committee,

I would like to voice my support for HB 206. I live just outside the town core of the small community of Tenakee Springs off grid and depend on satellite Internet communication since there is no other option. It has been difficult to get someone out here to install and service our satellite system. So difficult to get reliable timely service for me and my neighbors that I have started to train to become a Hughes Net Installer myself. Soon I will have completed the Hughes Net national installer training. Many, many of my neighbors have been contacting me about installing the latest technology and they are VERY GLAD that a LOCAL person will be trained to assist them with their communication needs.

I was not aware of the electrical administrator nor licensed contractor requirements prior to completing more than half my training. Admittedly I should have done more to find out about these current regulations prior to training. That still does not change the need for our community and I'm sure many other communities throughout the state to have locally trained individuals to provide satellite internet. People like myself who have spent time and money to acquire the necessary training to become a satellite internet installer and frankly are not likely to become an electrical administrator or contractor.

At this point I can say that HB 206 would enable me to complete my training and install and service the latest technology which we need out here just to make a reliable phone call. There is no cell phone service here. Many people in Tenakee will be adversely affected if we cannot get someone local to qualify as an installer.

Thank you for considering this, my testimony in support of HB 206.

Sincerely,

Craig Mapes  
PO Box 46  
Tenakee Springs, Alaska 99841

Sent from my iPad

3239 La Ree Way  
Fairbanks, AK 99709  
907-451-0088 (direct)  
888-396-5623 (toll free)  
907-590-7774 (cell)  
888-260-3584 (fax)  
[satinfo@hughes.net](mailto:satinfo@hughes.net)  
[www.alaskasatelliteinternet.com](http://www.alaskasatelliteinternet.com)  
April 11, 2017

# Alaska Satellite Internet

High Speed Internet for  
Remote Alaska Locations

907-451-0088 or 888-396-5623

Reference: HB206 2017

To: 2017 Alaska State Legislature:

Opposition to HB206 will be seen by the Native people as more of those in the big city deciding what is best for the Bush, without having a clue.....

The incredibly successful Alaska Satellite Internet business model was designed to disseminate satellite Internet throughout the Bush, and it depends on having trained, certified installers in as many villages and rural regions as possible. We partner with over 400 certified installers scattered throughout most of Alaska. Incidentally, this has raised the level of technical skill for many rural individuals at no cost to the educational system.

We do not employ these installers. They work directly for the customers. When a customer needs an installation, we provide them with a list of installers in the area. They can contact these installers and choose the one who best suits their needs.

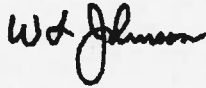
A local installer in a bush area may install 10 or 20 systems, during a one or two year period. After the village is saturated, then about all the work a local installer will get is an occasional install or repair. There is no way that it makes economic sense for someone to invest in a Handyman License for the limited amount of work that person would do. Hughes allocates \$200/install in the lower-48. Here in Alaska, the cost would be in the \$300-\$400 range, without all of that being profit by any means. Certainly, if someone in the Bush did achieve licensed contractor status, the customers would end up paying \$100-\$200 or more in installation cost, and absolutely, competition would be discouraged.

Most of the local Native people in the Bush live a qualitative, subsistence lifestyle. These people don't like to do a lot of paperwork and complete bureaucratic requirements, probably even less than the rest of us do. In the end, we won't have contractor licensing, we will either lose the local installer altogether, or they will simply become lawbreakers.

Our company has sold more satellite Internet here in Alaska than any other dealer in the Nation off and on for a few years, and for other years, we still have been top ranking. We have had more active subscriptions than any other dealer in the Nation for a number of years also. I never heard of any problem where licensing or bonding would have been needed. This is a solution looking for a problem. This kind of licensing is not really intended to protect the consumer, it is actually intended to protect the larger contractors from competition.

What good does it do to have contractor licensing in the Bush when there are no contractors? This certainly does not serve the public convenience and necessity.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Will Johnson".

Will Johnson, President