

Session:
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801
(907) 465-4457 Office
(907) 465-3519 Fax
(800) 928-4457 Toll Free

Alaska House of Representatives
David Guttenberg



District 4

Interim:
1292 Sadler Way
Suite 304
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701-3171
(907) 456-8172
(907) 456-2490 Fax

Representative Matt Claman, Chairman
House Judiciary Committee

April 10, 2018

Chairman Claman and House Judiciary Committee Members,

I am concerned about HB404, TELECOMMUNICATIONS REGULATION/EXEMPTIONS. HB404 is ostensibly an attempt to modernize telecommunications statutes in Alaska's Public Utilities Regulatory Act. I agree that revisions are necessary to eliminate obsolete statutes and effectively address the challenges of the modern world, but this bill is not the way to accomplish those goals.

Supporters of the bill have indicated that it is a straightforward piece of legislation that simply seeks to eliminate regulation of things like landlines, pay-phones and telephone directories. This characterization is troubling as the bill would have much more far ranging effects. I am not aware of legislation in any other state that eliminates economic oversight of monopoly carriers in the same way as HB404 and I am concerned about the impacts of eliminating the protections of economic regulation in the parts of Alaska that have only one wireline provider.

I appreciate the effort to update Alaska's telecommunications standards, but I do not support efforts to push through legislation that ignores the concerns of the Regulatory Commission of Alaska and fails to prioritize the interests of consumers in our state. It's essential for the legislature to help foster a positive conversation that will ensure the creation of modern telecommunications statutes and future infrastructure that will benefit all Alaskans.

Please work to thoroughly vet this bill and to understand the impacts it would have.

Respectfully,

Representative David Guttenberg

Ester Farmers Loop Goldstream 1 & 2 Steese East/Gilmore Steese West University Hills

rep.david.guttenberg@akleg.gov