



March 25, 2019

The Honorable Lora Reinbold
Chair, Senate Labor and Commerce
Alaska State Capitol, Room 427
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: Support Senate Bill 83 – Telecommunications Regulations/Exemptions

Committee Chair Reinbold:

On behalf of Alaska Communications, please accept this letter of support regarding Senate Bill 83 – Telecommunications Regulations/Exemptions.

Alaska Communications has a 120-year history serving the state of Alaska. We've evolved from a local telephone company to one of the largest broadband and managed IT service providers in the state. We own and operate a state-of-the art fiber optic network serving Alaska from the North Slope to Ketchikan and two of the four subsea fiber optic cables connecting Alaska to the Lower 48. We are also deploying new technology, such as fixed wireless, to connect more Alaskans with broadband.

Much has changed in the telecommunications landscape since the 1970s when the basic structure of state statutes governing the telecommunications industry and the Alaska Public Utilities Commission (the predecessor to the Regulatory Commission of Alaska or RCA) were put in place. Just as we have evolved from a monopoly that was the only choice for consumers to a market-driven company that is one of many voice service providers, we believe it is appropriate for the state's statutes to evolve.

Senate Bill 83 will relieve companies from filing burdensome tariffs with the RCA that impose a significant cost to our companies with no benefit to our customers.

The time has come to relieve telecommunications providers of the burdens of being regulated by the RCA. Most Alaskans have had access to competitive telecommunications services for more than twenty years. It is inefficient to continue the legacy practice of RCA jurisdiction over this competitive industry by a Commission that was established to regulate monopoly utilities. As a step in the right direction, Alaska Communications, along with every Alaska Telecom Association member, supports Senate Bill 83. We urge you to take the next step in bringing state law in line with our modern industry. Doing so will support continued investment in our great state.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Leonard Steinberg', written in a cursive style.

Leonard Steinberg
Senior Vice President, Legal, Regulatory and Government Affairs