



March 28, 2019

Dear Representative Harriett Drummond,

In response to legislative inquiries for HB75, GCI has reviewed its fiber, microwave, and satellite networks to determine whether we can provide 25 Mbps connectivity to K-12 schools currently serviced by GCI. GCI has invested more than \$3 billion since its founding to extend modern communication services throughout our state. These continuing investments enable our broadband delivery to anchor-tenants in Alaska, ensuring that we have the capabilities to achieve the 25 Mbps goal.

We deeply appreciate **your** efforts to improve educational opportunities throughout Alaska, and we at GCI share in your priority to advance education.

We look forward to working with you, other policymakers, educators, school board members, and parents to ensure Alaska's children have access to the technology that enables the best educational opportunity possible.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pam Lloyd". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Pam" being more prominent than the last name "Lloyd".

Pam Lloyd, PhD  
Vice-President, Corporate Strategy,  
GCI Government, Healthcare and Education

March 29, 2019

Honorable Harriett Drummond  
Chair, House Education Committee  
State Capitol Room 108  
Juneau AK, 99801

RE: HB75 Internet for Schools

Dear Representative Drummond,

We would like to express our support for HB75 "An Act relating to funding for Internet services for school districts; and relating to the Alaska higher education investment fund." Access to broadband service is essential to students and educators throughout Alaska. Through broadband, Alaska's schools are able to greatly improve and expand the opportunities students have to broaden their learning experience and excel throughout Alaska.

The current Broadband Assistance Grant (BAG) program has been extremely valuable in helping schools acquire more broadband capacity through the E-rate program. The E-rate program is a critical program supporting connectivity for Alaska's schools, allowing them to receive up to 90% federal support for broadband services. Pairing BAG with E-rate will continue to offer opportunities to improve broadband access for Alaska's children and teachers.

HB75 increases the current minimum broadband requirement for schools from 10 megabits per second (Mbps) to 25 Mbps for each school and provides funding to help schools reach 25 Mbps. Current technology and infrastructure are able to deliver 25Mbps to all schools in Alaska. With the support provided under HB75, broadband speeds can be increased for approximately 170 schools. This will give thousands of students and teachers more access to the benefits of broadband, including a multitude of educational activities and boundless Internet-based content. Additional capacity will also help reduce technical issues related to network congestion such as buffering.

Our members continue to invest in Alaska's broadband infrastructure and are committed to working closely with schools to meet their broadband needs. HB75 will provide an important tool in helping Alaska's schools increase access to broadband and all its benefits. Students and teachers will benefit from the vast array of content and capabilities available through more robust broadband connections.

Sincerely, -



Christine O'Connor  
Executive Director