
Alaska Telecom Association

Michael Burke
President

201 E. 56th Avenue, Suite 114
Anchorage, AK 99518
(907) 563-4000
www.alaskatel.org

Christine O'Connor
Executive Director

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Senator Shelly Hughes
Chair, Community & Regional Affairs
State Capitol Room 30
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: Support Senate Joint Resolution 13 - Improve Broadband Internet Access

Dear Senator Hughes,

I am writing today to express our support for Senate Joint Resolution 13 – Improve Broadband Internet Access.

Alaska Telecom Association's members provide telecommunications services throughout the state, connecting Alaskans through landline, wireless, and broadband services. ATA's member companies are committed to continually improving and extending Alaska's broadband networks and have invested over \$1.2 billion in upgrades and deployment since 2017. They are diligently working to identify new opportunities and resources to enable expanded broadband access for all Alaskans.

SJR13 makes important findings and urges actions which will result in more broadband access for Alaskans. Avoiding unnecessary or burdensome fees can be the factor which makes projects viable, facilitating broadband deployment. Engagement with stakeholders is critical to help identify effective policies which encourage and support operation and deployment of broadband networks. And urging the United States Congress to dedicate funding for broadband infrastructure which recognizes Alaska's unique needs is a powerful, positive message which is likely to result in transformational opportunities for broadband expansion.

SJR13 is an important commitment to continued focus on and support for broadband services in Alaska. Thank you for your leadership, we appreciate your work in supporting broadband access for all Alaskans.

Respectfully submitted,



Christine O'Connor
Executive Director