

Written Testimony and Letters of Support as of April 15, 2021

1. Alaska Satellite Internet

From: [William Johnson](#)
To: [Brian Webb](#)
Cc: [Brian Ashton](#); [Will Johnson - Yute](#); [Satellite Alaska](#)
Subject: HB 154: Support letter from one of the most respected satellite businesses in Alaska.
Date: Thursday, April 15, 2021 6:02:34 AM

Reference: Alaska House Bill 154

To: 32nd Alaska State Legislature

Satellite Alaska has been in business in Alaska for nearly forty years and over that time we have risen to become one of the largest low-voltage satellite system distributors in the state. We have held an outstanding and exemplary track record during our decades of service to the rural residents of Alaska and we estimate we have worked with over one hundred rural native Alaskan installers over the decades who have all safely installed our low-voltage satellite systems. In fact, we cannot recall even one low-voltage safety incident occurring during all our decades of business.

As seen in the vast majority of states in the Lower 48, low-voltage system installations of telecommunications and satellite communication equipment (both of which by definition include low-voltage broadband systems) are exempted from unnecessary contractor and electrical administrator licensing requirements. Alaska also exempts most low-voltage installations from such licensing requirements; however, we have seen a need to clarify for Alaska Department of Commerce licensing staff that low-voltage installations such as the low-voltage satellite Internet systems that our Alaska business has sold for several decades, be clearly exempted from state licensing requirements under AS 08.40 and AS 08.18. There has never been to our knowledge a safety issue in Alaska, or the Lower 48, regarding the low-voltage residential and commercial installation of satellite Internet systems – which were intended by the manufacturers to even be installed by homeowners directly. Misinterpreting existing state statutes to not exempt low-voltage satellite system installations, as has happened, has only served to drive up costs for rural Alaska consumers as well as overburden rural Alaska small businesses such as ours with completely unnecessary regulation.

In light of the foregoing, Satellite Alaska supports HB 154 in clarifying existing state licensing requirements by adding additional language to the long list of existing exemptions in AS 08.40 and AS 08.18 that will, through the proposed statutory amendments, clearly exempt low-voltage satellite systems from unnecessary state regulation.

Thanks,
Mike Hanner
243-7475
830-2295c

The logo for Alaska Satellite Internet features the words "Alaska", "Satellite", and "Internet" stacked vertically in a red, sans-serif font. The text is partially enclosed by a grey circular graphic element on the right side.

High Speed Internet for
Remote Alaska Locations

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