



April 22, 2021

Senator Shelley 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,


Matanuska Telephone Association, Inc. (MTA), supports Senate Joint Resolution 13 advocating for increased broadband deployment in the state to improve internet access.

Established in 1953, MTA is a 100 percent Alaskan locally owned and operated cooperative serving and supporting thousands of Alaskans. Headquartered in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, MTA focuses on providing and extending reliable broadband connectivity throughout its service area. Sometimes, it's not only terrestrial challenges that must be overcome, but also burdensome fees and cumbersome permitting processes. That's why SJR13 is so important and so timely.

If adopted and implemented, SJR13 will help MTA's member-owners stay connected to family, community, healthcare, education, employment, and commerce and will ensure this connectivity well into the future. SJR13 accurately portrays the essential lifeline that broadband has become for our society and encourages the removal of state-imposed right-of-way and permitting roadblocks; seeks broadband providers input before making policy changes; and calls upon the United States Congress to include broadband in the 2021 federal infrastructure legislation coupled with urging our Alaska delegation to advocate for flexible funding parameters.

The call to action outlined in SJR13 will assist in future proofing the way Alaskans stay connected. MTA supports SJR13.

Respectfully,

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Michael C. Burke, CEO



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