

# Alaska Telecom Association

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Christine O'Connor  
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Senators Jesse Bjorkman and Click Bishop Co-Chairs  
Senate Labor and Commerce Committee  
Alaska State Capitol  
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Co-Chairs Bjorkman and Bishop,

Thank you to the Committee for sponsoring Senate Bill 196, which will update Alaska's drug and alcohol testing safe harbor law to include modern oral testing. Alaska Telecom Association (ATA) supports this bill.

ATA's members provide telecommunications services to Alaskans throughout the state. We employ more than 3,000 people in Alaska, and thousands more will be joining our labor force as federal infrastructure funds for broadband are deployed in the years ahead. Updating Alaska's safe harbor law to allow implementation of oral fluid testing will significantly enhance our efforts in maintaining a drug-free environment.

Oral fluid testing offers several advantages over traditional drug testing methods, including convenience and non-invasiveness. Unlike traditional testing, which requires a designated facility, oral fluid testing can be conducted on-site, making the process more efficient and less disruptive to employees' work schedules. Oral fluid testing also provides a more accurate and reliable indication of recent drug use. Since oral fluid samples are collected directly from the mouth, they can detect the presence of drugs within a shorter detection window. This means that oral fluid testing is better suited for identifying individuals who may be under the influence of drugs while on duty, thereby reducing the risk of workplace accidents and injuries. In addition to its effectiveness in detecting recent drug use, oral fluid testing also offers greater flexibility in terms of sample collection and minimizes the potential for adulteration, ensuring the integrity and validity of test results.

Adding oral fluid testing to Alaska's safe harbor law will contribute to safer and more secure workplace environments for all employees. Thank you again for your support of Senate Bill 196. Please let us know if we can provide additional information.

Sincerely,



Christine O'Connor  
Executive Director