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March 14, 2011

The Honorable Kurt Olson, Chair
House State Affairs Committee
Alaska State Capitol, Room 24
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Chair Olson:

HB 24 (Olson)—Support

On behalf of the AARP members in Alaska, we encourage you and your colleagues on the House Labor and Commerce Committee to support HB 24, which you authored. HB 24 would extend the life of the Regulatory Commission of Alaska (RCA) for two years. AARP would support an even longer authorization if possible.

AARP relies on the RCA because it offers our members and all Alaskans the best opportunity to achieve basic consumer protections:

- The ability to make informed choices about utility services
- The security of safe and reliable energy and telecommunications services
- The assurance that sales practices and advertisements are fair, so they do not confuse, mislead, or frighten the public
- The reassurance that consumers receive accurate information, communicated clearly and in plain language, so we understand our rights and remedies

The RCA assures consumers the right to affordable rates and access to such basic necessary services as utilities and communications. We rely on the Attorney General to represent consumers on cases before the RCA. AARP families need HB 24; all Alaskans need this bill.

AARP recommends an "AYE" vote on HB 24.

Should you have any questions about our position, please feel free to contact me (586-3637) or Patrick Luby, AARP Advocacy Director (907-762-3314).

Mavis Darling

CC: Vice-Chair Craig Johnson
Representative Dan Saddler
Representative Paul Seaton
Representative Steve Thompson
Representative Lindsey Holmes
Representative Bob Miller