



Regulatory Commission of Alaska

MEMORANDUM

To: Alaska Legislature

Date: February 15, 2019

From: Stephen McAlpine, Chairman

Subject: Regulatory Commission of Alaska's Report to the Legislature

This letter serves as the Regulatory Commission of Alaska's (RCA) response to the intent language included in the recent budget, specifically:

It is the intent of the legislature that the Regulatory Commission of Alaska recommend adoption of updated telecommunication modernization regulatory standards in AS 42.05, the Alaska Public Utilities Regulatory Act, and deliver recommendations on how best to modernize outdated statutes to the House and Senate Finance Committees and to the Legislative Finance Division by February 19, 2019.

CCS HB 286, Section 1 (Chapter 17 SLA 18).

At the RCA's February 6, 2019, public meeting the RCA voted four to one to extend its general support for the legislative reforms to the RCA's enabling statutes with regard to telecommunications service in Alaska that the Alaska Telecom Association (ATA) has advanced. In doing so, the RCA nevertheless has concerns about how the bill might affect service and service quality in parts of rural Alaska. The RCA believes the Legislature will benefit from access to the materials developed during the last several months by ATA and its membership, as well as by RCA staff as it undertakes deliberation on this public policy decision. Those relevant materials are attached, in addition to a transcript of the February 6, 2019, public meeting that includes Commissioners' discussion of the modernization language cited above.

Respectfully yours,

for Paul F. Lumbie, Commissioner

Stephen McAlpine
Chairman