

Alaska Telecom Association

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Telecommunications Regulatory Modernization Act FAQ

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1. Why is this Act good for Alaskans?

The Act will eliminate outdated regulations which gives telecom providers flexibility to respond to and deploy new technology. This creates an environment for competition to thrive and telecom providers to invest in their networks.

2. If there is less regulatory oversight, will providers abandon communities?

No. Because they are still certificated, companies must apply for and get RCA approval before discontinuing service in any community. Telecom providers must also apply for and get FCC approval before discontinuing service in any community.

3. Do all Alaska Telecom Association members support the Act?

Yes. All ATA member companies support this proposal.

4. Why do telecom companies support this Act?

ATA member companies want to devote their resources to operating and extending their networks. Today, some telecom providers are regulated and some are not. ATA member companies believe that leveling the playing field among providers will encourage competition and business investment. Outdated statutes and regulations currently require a much heavier burden of some companies than others regarding rate and service changes.

5. Who will protect consumers?

The Regulatory Commission of Alaska (RCA) today oversees consumer protection and will retain that oversight. Consumers can also advocate issues with the Consumer Division of the Attorney General's Office, their state legislators, congressional delegation and the Federal Communications Commission.