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Senator Kevin Meyer Senate District M

SB 205:Telecommunications Regulation/Exemptions **February 27, 2018**

The telecommunication statutes (AS 42.05) are in need of revision due to rapid changes in technology and in FCC regulations, which render portions of the existing statutes obsolete and/or inefficient in the modern telecommunications world.

All of Alaska's telecommunications providers through the Alaska Telephone Association have worked together to offer these suggested changes. In doing so, they have strived to maintain important consumer protections, appropriate RCA jurisdiction, and consistency with FCC regulations while at the same time allowing for greater flexibility to more rapidly take advantage of new technology.

Some existing RCA regulations are over 25 years old and are largely obsolete today. Customer preferences continue to grow for broadband and mobile service while the demand for landlines declines. In competitive markets, carrier of last resort requirements and alternative operator services are no longer necessary. Placing service providers on a more level playing field will encourage deployment of advanced technologies and more efficient network design.

Adoption of these recommended statutory changes will result reduced regulatory cost charges for consumers.