

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

## House Labor & Commerce Committee



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Rep. Julie Coulombe  
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### **House Joint Resolution 6 Sponsor Statement**

The United States Supreme Court is hearing a lawsuit that could invalidate the Universal Service Fund (USF). This resolution expands on the Alaska Legislature's support for the USF, which helps provide low-cost phone, mobile, and internet to residential customers statewide as well as internet and transport services for rural healthcare facilities, schools, and libraries.

Established in 1966 under the Telecommunications Act, the long-standing program is now facing a threat by litigation that could reach the Supreme Court. An adverse decision by the Supreme Court, without action from Congress, could jeopardize up to \$509 million in federal dollars that Alaska receives annually under the current program.

Ending the Universal Service Fund would likely shut down existing rural communication networks, hamper rural communities' ability to maintain and repair facilities, and compromise the ability to construct new grant-funded networks.

The Alaska Municipal League, Alaska Federation of Natives, and Alaska Telecom Association support continuation of USF, and the Dunleavy Administration has filed an amicus brief in support of the USF.