



February 23, 2018

The Honorable Mia Costello
Chair, Senate Labor & Commerce Committee
State Capitol, Beltz 105
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: SB 205 Telecommunications Regulation/Exemptions

Dear Chair Costello and Members of the Committee,

We are writing to express our support for SB 205. This bill would allow Alaska companies to manage their tariffs expediently and efficiently, without the additional expense of filing informational filings or rate cases with the Regulatory Commission of Alaska (RCA).

Copper Valley Telephone Cooperative (CVTC) provides landline telephone, calling features, long distance, high speed Internet connectivity, and wireless voice and data. We also provide high capacity special access services. CVTC serves a geographic region of over 9,400 square miles around Valdez, the Copper Basin, and surrounding areas.

SB 205 updates outdated telecommunications statutes which are focused on outdated technology and services, while continuing to protect consumers by maintaining RCA oversight. The RCA's authority to grant and oversee Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) and Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (ETC) designations provides competent consumer protection.

Cooperatives have been successfully operating without filing tariffs at the RCA for many years. SB 205 allows both providers and the RCA to be more efficient by eliminating unnecessary tariff filings. In turn, Alaska companies would be able to save valuable resources which are better utilized in serving their members.

Respectfully submitted,

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