



Arctic Slope Telephone Association Cooperative, Inc.
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March 6, 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,

I am writing to express our Board of Directors' support for SB 205. Arctic Slope Telephone Association Cooperative, Inc. (ASTAC) provides landline, long distance, high speed fixed and mobile WAN Internet connectivity, and 4G wireless voice and data services to its owner/members on the North Slope. ASTAC serves a geographic region of over 91,000 square miles covering the North Slope of Alaska.

SB 205 updates outdated telecommunications statutes which are focused on outdated technology and services, while continuing to protect consumers by maintaining RCA oversight.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 like ASTAC have been successfully operating without filing tariffs at the RCA for many years. SB 205 allows other 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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. Laipenieks", enclosed within a blue oval.

Jens Laipenieks
CEO/General Manager