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A Communication From
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SPONSOR STATEMENT

HB 4

An Act relating to false caller identification

Warning: The name and number you see and trust on your caller ID system may be false. Both private individuals and commercial entities can now cause false caller identification to be displayed on your caller identification screen.

False caller identification is more than pranks, or annoyance. The power to create serious mischief and facilitate fraud with Caller ID spoofing technology is almost unlimited, and it can be potentially dangerous.

For example, some financial institutions use Caller ID to authenticate telephone requests for personal account information. With a few personal tidbits and your spoofed number, an impostor could access your bank or credit card account. Scam artists who appear to be phoning from a reputable agency can defraud their victims with ease. There's also potential for hoaxing emergency calls with false Caller ID to law enforcement or the fire departments. Predators may use Caller ID spoofing to help them commit crimes against women and children.

HB 4 doesn't get into how the spoofing gets to the display on your phone caller ID. Anyone can spoof telephone caller identification systems. In fact an entire telephone spoofing industry has emerged, and is growing daily. For the price of a ten-dollar calling card one can change what someone sees on their Caller ID display and even change their voice.

HB 4 will make it class A misdemeanor for any person, with the intent to defraud, to make a call or engage in other conduct that results in display of false caller information on a recipient's phone or caller ID System.

Alaska should take whatever action possible within its jurisdiction to stem the abuse of "Caller ID Spoofing." I respectfully request your support for HB 4.