



Arctic Slope Telephone Association Cooperative, Inc.  
4300 B Street, Suite 501, Anchorage, AK 99503  
907.563.3989 • 1.800.478.6409 • F. 907.563.1932

March 22, 2019

Honorable Lora Reinbold  
Chair, Senate Labor and Commerce Committee  
State Capitol, Beltz 105  
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: SB83 Telecommunications Regulations/Exemptions  
Dear Chair Reinbold and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express our Board of Directors' support for SB83. 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.

SB83 updates outdated telecommunications statutes which are focused on outdated technology and services, while continuing to protect consumers by maintaining RCA oversight.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. SB83 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", is written over a light blue circular stamp.

Jens Laipenieks  
CEO/General Manager