



Alaska Telecom Association
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March 21, 2019

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

RE: SB83 Telecommunications Regulation/Exemptions

Dear Senator Reinbold:

Alaska Telecom Association is the statewide association of telecommunications companies in Alaska. Our members connect Alaskans with landline, wireless, and broadband services.

ATA supports Senate bill 83, which provides updates to Alaska's telecommunications statutes to remove obsolete statutes and allow Alaska's telecom providers to operate more efficiently and focus resources on modern services.

Some of Alaska's statutes are nearly 50 years old, irrelevant to modern telecom services, and impediments to investment and innovation. SB83 will update these statutes to allow providers to focus on deploying modern technology across the state. It allows traditional landline providers increased flexibility to compete with new services, while still protecting landline service. And it provides regulatory efficiency for the Regulatory Commission of Alaska and providers by eliminating meaningless filings and reports.

SB83 contains strong protections for consumers while also recognizing the dramatic changes in the telecommunications marketplace. It is an important bill which will maintain strong oversight while also providing efficiencies and flexibility to Alaska's providers.

Sincerely,

Christine O'Connor
Executive Director