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Honorable Lora Reinbold
Chair, Senate Labor and Commerce
Alaska State Capitol
Room 427
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: Support for Senate Bill 83 – Telecommunications Regulations/Exemptions

Committee Chair Reinbold:

On behalf of AT&T, please accept this letter of support regarding Senate Bill 83– Telecommunications Regulations/Exemptions -- A bill relating to the Regulatory Commission of Alaska; relating to the public utility regulatory cost charge; relating to the regulation of telecommunications; relating to exemptions, charges, and rates applicable to telecommunications utilities; relating to regulation of telephone services; and relating to alternate operator services. This bill maintains important consumer protections, appropriate RCA jurisdiction, and consistency with FCC regulations while providing industry with greater flexibility to more rapidly take advantage of new technology.

AT&T provides a wide range of services to our customers in Alaska, including wireless, inter-exchange long distance, and enterprise data services.

AT&T supports SB 83 and believes that the bill provides a long overdue opportunity to streamline and update Alaska's telecommunications statutes. Many of the Alaska statutes at issue have not been addressed since the early 1990s – over 25 years ago. A lot has happened in the telecommunications industry in the last 25 years. In the early 1990s in Alaska only one carrier was allowed to provide long distance service in rural communities. Wireless was a nascent industry. Now, more people are using wireless than traditional wireline phones. As of June 2017, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) reports that in Alaska 51.9% of adults were in wireless-only homes with another 18.4% living in wireless-mostly homes. Consumers communicate now predominately via social media, text messaging and wireless service.

Alaska's statute's need to change to reflect the changes in the telecommunications industry.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shawn Uschmann".

Shawn Uschmann
AT&T