

March 8, 2022

The Honorable Bryce Edgmon Alaska State Capitol Room 410 Juneau AK. 99801

RE: HB363 Broadband, Office, Grants, Parity Dear Representative Edgmon,

MTA is supportive of the recently introduced, HB363 "An Act establishing the office of broadband; creating the broadband adjustment parity fund; establishing the Statewide Advisory Board; and providing for an effective date."

MTA is a leading broadband provider, empowering its member-owners and patrons to live a connected life. We have been delivering advanced communication services to Southcentral Alaska residents since 1953.

HB363 adopts the recommendations of the Governor's Task Force on Broadband to support access to improved broadband services for Alaskans. Establishing the Office of Broadband in the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development will enable the State of Alaska to participate in the programs created by the Infrastructure, Investment, and Jobs Act of 2021 and access an unprecedented level of funding dedicated to extending broadband service throughout Alaska.

MTA is focused on investing in Alaska's broadband infrastructure and is eager to accelerate that work through the new infrastructure programs being implemented.

We fully support HB363 as it provides important tools to support implementation of these programs and will result in increased access to broadband and its benefits for our member-owners.

As always, thank you for your leadership and dedication to the important deployment of broadband services for Alaskans.

Kind regards,

Michael C. Burke

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