



March 30, 2022

The Honorable Tiffany Zulkosky
Alaska State Capitol
120 4th Street, Room 416
Juneau, Alaska 99801

RE: House Bill 123 – State Recognition of Tribes

Dear Representative Zulkosky:

GCI is in strong support of House Bill 123 "State Recognition of Tribes," legislation to formally grant state recognition of Alaska's 229 federally recognized Tribes.

GCI has been serving Alaskans for more than 40 years. We are committed to connecting Alaskans across the state from Utqiagvik to Unalakleet to Angoon. More than 97% of Alaskans live in GCI's service footprint and we strive to ensure that our company reflects the diverse communities we serve and their values.

Headquartered on Dena'ina land, GCI is a diverse company with a fundamental commitment to inclusivity. We recommitted to this focus in 2019 with the launch of the GCI Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion initiative, which is focused on building an even more inclusive environment that empowers all employees and celebrates our diverse strengths. GCI's diversity and inclusion initiative will also explore steps we can take to assure that our commitment to diversity and inclusion is reflected in every aspect of our business, from how we source supplies, to how our employees engage with and access company resources, to the experiences of our customers and community. As a founding member of GCI's DEI council, I feel personally invested in this companywide initiative.

House Bill 123 embodies the spirit of diversity, equity, and inclusion. The Indigenous people of Alaska have been on these lands since time immemorial and should be recognized as such.

Thank you for your initiative on this important legislation to build trust, intergovernmental relations, and unity between Tribes and the State.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Jenifer Nelson", written over a horizontal line.

Jenifer Nelson
Director of Rural Affairs