

(LIMITED RUN FOR ALL ADDITIONAL SPONSORSHIPS)

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 11

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY SENATOR THERRIAULT

REPRESENTATIVES Kohring, Samuels

Introduced: 3/3/05

Referred: Labor and Commerce, Finance

A RESOLUTION

1 **Urging the United States Congress to amend the tax code to repeal the federal excise tax**
2 **on communications.**

3 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

4 **WHEREAS** the federal excise tax on communications was enacted in 1898 for the
5 purpose of funding the Spanish-American War; and

6 **WHEREAS** the tax was introduced as a "temporary" luxury tax; and

7 **WHEREAS** telephone service is no longer a luxury, but rather a necessity for
8 consumers of all income levels; and

9 **WHEREAS** the federal excise tax is regressive, as low-income Americans pay a
10 higher percentage of their income for telephone services than high-income Americans; and

11 **WHEREAS** the Internet and other new technologies depend on the
12 telecommunications infrastructure, so the telecommunications excise tax discourages
13 expansion not only of the telephone infrastructure but also of new technologies; and

14 **WHEREAS** the federal excise tax on telecommunications flows into the general fund,
15 rather than being earmarked for a specific purpose; and

16 **WHEREAS** the United States Congress passed a repeal of the federal excise tax on

1 telecommunications in 2000, which was vetoed by President Clinton;

2 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature requests the members of the
3 Alaska delegation to the United States Congress to support a repeal of the federal excise tax
4 on communications.

5 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the
6 Honorable Lisa Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S.
7 Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.