

Introduced: 3/28/74  
Referred: Finance

BY THE RULES COMMITTEE BY  
REQUEST OF THE SPECIAL  
COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

1 IN THE SENATE

2 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 64

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 EIGHTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 Relating to satellite communications  
6 for remote Alaskan communities.

7 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

8 WHEREAS the Alaska bush regions only means of communication are a  
9 limited number of telephones and high frequency radios, which are largely  
10 unreliable due to atmospheric interference; and

11 WHEREAS the State of Alaska appears to be on the verge of a solution  
12 to one of its major problems: providing reliable voice communication and  
13 television reception services to the remote communities in the state; and

14 WHEREAS one of the most essential services to remote villages is  
15 communications for medical assistance; and

16 WHEREAS an experimental satellite communication system operated by the  
17 Indian Health Service and the University of Alaska Geophysical Institute has:

18 (1) enabled native health aides to obtain daily consultation with doctors;  
19 (2) allowed hospital patients to talk with their families in the villages;  
20 and (3) permitted University of Alaska students to hear a University of  
21 Washington Medical School lecture; and

22 WHEREAS Stanford University researchers (contracted by the Lister-Hill  
23 Center for Biomedical Communications) have studied the experimental Alaska  
24 satellite communications project and recommended implementation of a permanent  
25 satellite system and installation of small ground receiving and transmitting  
26 stations in 175 remote Alaska communities; and

27 WHEREAS evidence of the technical and economic viability of voice  
28 communication to remote communities via satellite was demonstrated  
29 February 23, 1974 from a two-way ground station at Point Reyes, California;

1 and

2 WHEREAS the ground station used in the demonstration at Point Reyes,  
3 California is of a type which could be expanded to provide full telephone  
4 and television service in Alaska, if the RCA satellite has the appropriate  
5 transmission capability; and

6 WHEREAS the State of Alaska is investigating methods of subsidizing  
7 existing communications companies to provide for expansion of their facili-  
8 ties to all communities of the state; and

9 WHEREAS inestimable educational and cultural benefits would be realized  
10 by remote Alaska communities through television services providing trans-  
11 mission of specialized and local commercial programs; and

12 WHEREAS telecommunications links throughout the state would serve to  
13 bring Alaskans closer together by creating a medium for better understanding  
14 and knowledge of each others problems; and

15 WHEREAS education and health communication experiments to be conducted  
16 in Alaska later this year, with video reception by ground stations using  
17 NASA's ATS-F satellite, will demonstrate the viability of television service  
18 to remote communities; and

19 WHEREAS provision of television to isolated Alaska communities in the  
20 foreseeable future is dependent on RCA installing an ATS-F-type transponder  
21 on its satellite;

22 BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that RCA Global Communi-  
23 cations, Incorporated is urgently requested to include a video transponder  
24 as part of the instrumentation on its satellite to be launched in 1975 or early  
25 1976.

26 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to Mr. Robert Sarnoff, Chairman  
27 of the Board, Radio Corporation of America, Mr. Gene Becken, President, RCA  
28 Global Communications, Inc., and Mr. Stephen Heller, President, RCA Alaska  
29 Communications, Inc; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable

1 Mike Gravel, U. S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U. S. Representa-  
2 tive, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.

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