

Introduced: 3/11/76
Made a Special Order of
Business

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY THE SELECT COMMITTEE
ON TELECOMMUNICATIONS

2 HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 4

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 NINTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 Relating to provision of communications
6 satellite facilities.

7 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

8 WHEREAS, during the course of the past several years, the Alaska Legis-
9 lature has maintained a significant and continuing interest in the issues and
10 problems involving communications services for Alaska; and

11 WHEREAS the Alaska Legislature has in the past registered its opinion
12 with the Federal Communications Commission regarding Alaska's communications
13 needs; and

14 WHEREAS the Federal Communications Commission is presently considering
15 whether RCA Alaska Communications, Inc. (RCA Alascom) should lease satellite
16 transponder facilities from RCA Global Communications, Inc. - Trustee (RCA
17 Globcom) or from Western Union, Inc. during an interim period before resolu-
18 tion of the issues set out in the commission's November 6, 1975 RCA Satellite
19 Order (56 PCC 2d 660 (1975)); and

20 WHEREAS the commission's choice of a satellite facilities supplier for
21 the interim period significantly affects the interests of Alaska's communica-
22 tions users in that

23 (1) satellite transponder facilities available from Western Union
24 currently cost twice as much as those available from RCA Globcom;

25 (2) the Western Union satellite is not technically capable of
26 providing television service to the bush earth stations held in trust by the
27 state and RCA Alascom;

28 (3) the Western Union satellite is technically inadequate to
29 provide a full range of required voice communications services (including

1 adequate emergency medical service) to the bush earth stations; and

2 (4) the requirement for successive repointing of the bush earth
3 station antennas and the readjustment of associated equipment necessitated by
4 the use of the Western Union satellite during the interim period will delay
5 the scheduled operation of the bush earth stations; and

6 WHEREAS the commission's choice of a satellite facilities supplier for
7 the interim period can be made without prejudice to the resolution of the
8 issues set out in its November 6, 1975 RCA Satellite Order; and

9 WHEREAS the Governor of the State of Alaska has by letter dated March 10,
10 1976 urged the Federal Communications Commission to authorize interim satel-
11 lite service through the RCA Globcom satellite;

12 BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska House of Representatives that the use of
13 the RCA Satcom satellite by RCA Alascom during the interim period, subject to
14 the appropriate conditions requested by the state, is in the public interest,
15 and that the Alaska State Legislature fully supports the position expressed
16 in the Governor's letter of March 10, 1976.

17 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Richard E.
18 Wiley, Chairman, Federal Communications Commission; and to the Honorable Ted
19 Stevens and the Honorable Mike Gravel, U. S. Senators, and the Honorable Don
20 Young, U. S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.