

Offered: 2/4/75
Referred: Rules

Original sponsor: Commerce Committee

1 IN THE SENATE

BY THE COMMERCE COMMITTEE

2 CS FOR SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 5

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 NINTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 Relating to RCA Alaska Communications,
6 Inc., proposed satellite system.

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

8 WHEREAS, during the course of the past several years, the Alaska
9 Legislature has registered its opinion with the Federal Communications Com-
10 mission (FCC) regarding Alaska's communications requirements and needs; and

11 WHEREAS several firms, aside from RCA, Inc. -- RCA Global Communica-
12 tions. Inc. (RCA Globcom) and RCA Alaska Communications, Inc. (RCA Alascom)
13 -- have indicated their willingness to supply the State of Alaska with the
14 necessary hardware for a viable communications system at a reasonable cost;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, originally, RCA Alascom offered no satellite facility and was
17 persuaded to do so only after a great deal of effort, time, and money; and

18 WHEREAS the citizens of Alaska are now facing a burdensome rate base
19 for a communications system that will include outmoded terrestrial equipment
20 and satellite communications; and

21 WHEREAS the citizens of Alaska are vitally concerned about the advisa-
22 bility of a single company being able to dominate communications in Alaska;
23 and

24 WHEREAS an application for construction permits by RCA Alascom from the
25 Federal Communications Commission is due to be considered by that body in
26 the near future;

27 BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the following
28 requirements be met before the Federal Communications Commission approves
29 the application of RCA Alaska Communications, Inc.:

1 (1) that RCA Alascom agrees to furnish a communications satellite
2 containing some transponders with sufficiently high power and gain as to
3 definitely assure the receipt of high quality television signals at all
4 permitted ground station locations;

5 (2) that the FCC require full, periodic disclosure of the present
6 and continuing interrelationships of RCA Alascom, RCA Globcom, and RCA, Inc.,
7 to the FCC, the Alaska Public Utilities Commission and the Governor's Office
8 of Telecommunications or its successor, particularly including financial
9 and legal data on the respective shares owned and manner of use made by each
10 of these companies in any shared satellite;

11 (3) that written contracts be executed between RCA Alascom and
12 RCA Globcom guaranteeing that Alaska's communications needs will be met and
13 that adequate channel capacity will be available for Alaska on any communica-
14 tions satellite jointly owned by these companies;

15 (4) that the FCC make clear that RCA Alascom is not to have
16 exclusive rights under any permit or license granted;

17 (5) that no approval be given until public hearings are conducted
18 throughout Alaska;

19 (6) that after consideration of the pending application, the FCC
20 will require RCA Alascom to ask for bids in the open market for any future
21 satellite needs so that it may not unilaterally choose to deal only with
22 its parent company, RCA Globcom;

23 (7) that RCA Alascom and RCA Globcom agree to have separate
24 reporting and financial systems and that they file reports as may be required
25 to the Alaska Public Utilities Commission and the Governor's Office of
26 Telecommunications or its successor.

27 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Dean Burch,
28 Chairman, Federal Communications Commission; and to the Honorable Ted
29 Stevens and the Honorable Mike Gravel, U. S. Senators, and the Honorable

1 Don Young, U. S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.

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