

Introduced: 2/18/80  
Referred: Commerce, Finance

1 IN THE SENATE

BY HOHMAN

2 SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 21

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 Relating to the ownership of earth  
6 stations.

7 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE:

8 WHEREAS the Alaska State Senate is committed to the goal of promoting  
9 reliable, reasonably-priced telephone and telecommunication service for all  
10 Alaskans, including those residing in rural areas; and

11 WHEREAS improved telecommunications for rural areas are desirable and  
12 essential for the well-being of the residents of these areas; and

13 WHEREAS the state appropriated \$5,000,000 to purchase 100 small earth  
14 stations and entered into a series of agreements with the long lines carrier  
15 for their installation, operation and maintenance, and made applications to  
16 the Federal Communications Commission for ownership, all in furtherance of  
17 the goal of providing reliable, reasonably-priced telephone and telecommuni-  
18 cation service for all Alaskans; and

19 WHEREAS the Governor, in a recent policy statement, has announced the  
20 state's intention to withdraw, on March 1, 1980, its applications for earth  
21 station ownership which are pending before the Federal Communications Com-  
22 mission; and

23 WHEREAS the Alaska State Senate believes that the improvement and future  
24 development of telecommunication service can be accomplished most effectively  
25 and efficiently by reliance on competition and the free market place to  
26 ensure widely available telecommunication services; and

27 WHEREAS this policy favors the long lines carrier, Alascom, Inc., in its  
28 efforts to secure earth station ownership and discourages development of  
29 local exchange companies; and

1           WHEREAS telephone carriers are assisting in the development of tele-  
2 communication service to rural areas under the auspices of the appropriate  
3 state and federal regulatory commissions; and

4           WHEREAS local telephone service is not yet widely available in rural  
5 areas and emerging local exchange companies may require ownership of earth  
6 stations for the communities they serve in order to be economically viable;

7           BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Senate respectfully requests the  
8 Governor to withdraw the state's applications by March 1, 1980 for satellite  
9 earth stations at those locations where there are competing applications for  
10 ownership of this equipment and negotiate with the successful applicant for  
11 reimbursing the state, on an equitable basis, for its capital expenditures in  
12 these small earth stations; and be it

13           FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor delay withdrawing the state's ap-  
14 plications until December 31, 1980, for those locations where no competing  
15 applications have been filed; and be it

16           FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Senate requests the Governor to  
17 support federal legislation that will help in assuring the economic well-  
18 being of local exchange companies in rural Alaska.

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