HB

111

(File 2 of 5)

House Finance Committee Testimony: CSHB111(L&C)
May 12, 2003 10:46 am

Mr. Chairman: Thank you for this opportunity to meet with you. I am Dave Harbour, Chairman of the Regulatory Commission of Alaska. My duty today, is to advise you on the many, complex fiscal and regulatory issues created when the House Labor and Commerce Committee added several telecommunications companies' amendments to the Commission's reauthorization bill.

My fellow Commissioners and I believe that both the industry and my agency face significant challenges with telecommunication policies and we are dedicated to addressing them in a fair and balanced way as you would wish. However, the amendments tacked on to this reauthorization bill will only address special interests of certain players at consumer expense, without addressing the fundamental problems. I will explain.

The Telecommunications Act of 1996 was designed to promote local competition in an industry dominated by the large Regional Bell Operating Companies. Alaska, however, doesn't fit this mold. Our local companies serve relatively small exchanges and are not the primary provider of intrastate long distance services. Anchorage's incumbent local exchange carrier faces competition from a company with access to cable facilities and a strong presence in the long distance market. Put simply, Federal policies were not designed with Alaska in mind.

Under the Act as interpreted by the Federal Communications Commission, we are required to set rates on a forward looking cost basis, regardless of whether the results reflect the existing costs faced by the incumbent carrier. We are required to follow Federal rules to determine profit when developing rates. In competitive areas such as Anchorage and Fairbanks, Federal law requires that carriers set interconnection rates based on Federal negotiation and arbitration standards.

Similarly, we are required to follow Federal policies to determine when a carrier may be deemed eligible to receive Federal universal service funding in competition with an incumbent. The FCC also controls how much support a competitor is eligible to receive.

Though we have opened up the long distance market to statewide facilities competition, the FCC still restricts where a carrier may build an earth station. Until the Federal policy is modified, Alascom's facilities monopoly in about 140 remote rural locations in the state will probably continue.

We are charged to enforce a host of Federal obligations and limitations on incumbent carriers and one of the reasons all states have regulatory agencies, is to deal with the details and complexities of changing federal rules, markets and technology. For example, our authority to regulate new technologies such as cable telephony or the new Broadband Power Line technology and our ability to require fair rates for interconnect to such emerging networks, is part of a new world of emerging issues.

FYI - I don't know if Jim wanted to see this or not. He will not be able to testify in Jud. Comm as far as I know. Wanted Jim to have this.

These situations are challenges both for the industry and for the Commission. We welcome efforts to improve the current system. However, most of our challenges lie at the Federal level and that is where we believe much of the effort should be directed. We are discussing with the Governor's office, an effort (i.e. surely, in coordination with Senator Steven's office) to propose an Alaskan recommendation to the FCC allowing our state greater flexibility to manage competition, given our unique characteristics. All could benefit from such a solution, and we believe it will take Federal action, rather than changes in Alaska's statutes, to resolve most of the issues of current concern.

Many of the proposals before you attempt to solve the Federal problem by adopting state policies that conflict with Federal law. Statutory changes at odds with Federal law, will only lead to unnecessary litigation or federal preemption of state authority. This will increase the cost of regulation without a net benefit, since in the end, Federal law will prevail. Service to customers may be delayed or denied, and market instability may occur, as the industry and the Commission attempt to resolve these complex issues.

We believe it counterproductive to adopt any statutory changes that are inconsistent with Federal law, or that compromise the ability of the Commission to ensure due process when determining just and reasonable rates. The bulleted items below represent principle areas of concern. I have followed them with more detailed, section-by-section comments.

- The proposal would prematurely deregulate monopoly local and long distance carriers. Deregulation could occur when as many as 100% of the local customers in a given market had **no access** to a full-service competitor! Lack of price control may be especially critical in rural areas that may not face effective competition due to their remoteness, high cost and low population density.

- Except in very limited cases, the Commission could not require a carrier to upgrade its facilities[1] in light of consumer complaints. Customers unhappy with service quality could not obtain Commission help to require a utility to upgrade its facilities to meet a reasonable public need. Inadequate telecommunications infrastructure could defer economic development in rural areas.[2]

- Except in very limited cases, the Commission could not revise a carrier's depreciation rates to meet 'just and reasonable' ratemaking outcomes, or control the resultant increase in local rates, even if that carrier had <u>already</u> recovered the majority of its capital investment.

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[1] The term, "facilities" generally means the electronic equipment, cables, and other infrastructure needed to provide service to customers.

[2] The Regulatory Commission of Alaska currently process approximately 730 citizen complaints per year, from the North Slope to Southeast Alaska. The majority of these, almost 600, are directed at telecommunications utilities. The Commission resolves complaints with utilities informally, when possible; at other times it adjudicates complaints through formal procedures.

- The Commission must accept a carrier's increased interconnection rates even when negotiation or arbitration fail and competitors contest those rates, if the carrier self-certified its compliances with the proposed act.

Our goal, as statutes direct, is to protect the public interest: determining through due-process, just and reasonable rates for consumers and the opportunity for utilities to gather fair returns on their investments. We support Governor Murkowski's clean version of the RCA reauthorization bill as the best way to protect the public interest. The proposed legislation cannot remedy defects with Federal policies and has the potential to increase customer rates while reducing quality of service in our state. Changes are best directed at the federal level through a coordinated effort by the administration, industry and the Commission. Thank you again for this opportunity to comment.

Section-by-Section Comments

Sec 2: Proposed AS 42.05.145(b):

- The proposal would prevent the Commission from treating monopoly local carriers as dominant carriers, limiting the Commission's ability to monitor and ensure fair consumer rates. Under proposed section AS 42.05.145(b), the Commission cannot regulate an incumbent local carrier as dominant if a) the carrier has less than 60% statewide market share and b) another carrier has an approved application to serve somewhere in the incumbent's service area. All local carriers in Alaska have less than 60% statewide market share, making 60% a meaningless and misleading distinction. As a result, incumbent local carriers would be deemed non-dominant when any other carrier receives certification, even though the competitor may never actually serve or may provide only limited service in the area. Rural local carriers already receive strong protection under the Act from competition. The Act's Rural Exemption releases a rural local carrier from federal forward-looking rate setting practices, unbundled network element policies and the duty to negotiate interconnection rates with a competitor.[3] Further statutory protection is unneeded and risks harm to consumers. The long-standing policy of regulating monopolies remains valid and protects the public from undue rate increases and reductions in service quality.

Sec 3: Proposed AS 42.05.291(e):

- The first sentence of this proposal is unclear, but would apply to all utilities and would appear to prevent the Commission from requiring an updated quality of service standard to existing utility facilities or services, even if the current standards and requirements had become outdated or obsolete.

[3] The Rural Exemption cannot be lifted unless the Commission finds that the result would not be unduly economically burdensome, is technically feasible and is consistent with provisions of the Act related to Universal Service. 47 U.S.C. 251(f).

- Under the second sentence of (e), the Commission would be unable to require any telecommunications utility to upgrade its plant in response to customer complaints or desires for improved service quality or availability. This prohibition would apply both to competitive and non-competitive markets. Given the long life of utility plant (at times decades), the proposed section (e) is especially damaging to consumers. Poor quality or antiquated telecommunications infrastructure could delay availability of Internet access and deter economic development in rural areas. Adequate protections exist to allow companies to explain why upgrades may be too expensive or impractical.

Sec 4: Proposed AS 42.05.381(k):

- This part of the proposal abides by neither the IRS depreciation standards nor traditional regulatory standards. One of the IRS' publications alone, on depreciation, consumes about 107 pages of text.[4] In contrast, the pending proposal advocates one simple depreciation rule—*any rate is justified provided the life employed is no shorter than the service life permitted by the IRS.* The proposal ignores all other limitations, including that the utility stop recovering depreciation expense once the cost of an asset has been fully recovered. The proposal would also allow accelerated depreciation, making it possible for the carrier to increase its depreciation rates for the purpose of setting utility rates.[5]

  Unlike the IRS, the Commission does not have a 107-page publication describing depreciation rates. We have flexibility and generally would allow a proposed depreciation rate if the utility could justify it. (However, utilities must supply accurate information and have not always done so.) This proposed legislation would effectively prevent review and approval of depreciation rates so long as the utility had claimed it had used the IRS lives.

- Given the constraints on Commission action, this proposal would curtail the Commission's authority to enforce the existing statutory requirement that depreciation rates not be excessive. AS 42.05.471

- Depreciation expense is a key component for determining rates for a utility. The Commission would have to accept a utility rate increase based on a potentially accelerated depreciation expense that <u>could not be contested</u> except in limited circumstance as specified by the amendment.

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[4] See IRS Publication 946.

[5] Accelerated depreciation allows the utility to set a high depreciation rate in early years, followed (in theory) by a lower depreciation rate in later years. However, under this proposal, the utility would not be required to set a lower rate in later years, even if the utility had substantially recovered its investment.

Sec 4 (Cont.): Proposed AS 42.05.381(l):

- The first sentence allows the carrier to recover the costs "it expects to incur". While the meaning is vague, parties may argue that the Commission must accept the carrier's proposal even if costs were disputed. This provision may be inconsistent with the Act requirement that open issues be resolved through negotiation and arbitration.[6]

- The first sentence also requires that the carrier shall be "allowed a reasonable profit." In contrast, FCC policies state that normal profit is already embedded in the concept of forward-looking costs and so no additional profit component would generally be allowed when determining local interconnection rates.[7] As a result, the intent of this provision appears to conflict with Federal policy.

- The second sentence states that "current costs" provide the best evidence for setting rates.[8] However, this would be inconsistent with requirements of FCC regulations[9] that local interconnection rates be based on forward-looking costs.

- The third sentence provides that depreciation and capital costs may reflect "increased business risk" and must be consistent with provision (k). As previously indicated, provision (k) would place no effective constraint on depreciation rates or capital recovery. As a result, the carrier could set its level of capital recovery virtually at will. This would be inconsistent with the Act and FCC requirements that rates be based on forward-looking costs. This provision would also be inconsistent with the requirement that rates be based upon negotiation and, if necessary, arbitration. To the extent a carrier has the ability to raise its interconnection rates[10] in light of this provision, it could negatively affect competition and increase utility rates in the market. The term "business risk" is not defined and is legally arguable.

- The last section of this provision would make a carrier obligated to pay another carrier's investment costs if the first carrier at any time cancelled use of the other carrier's services. In a free market, competitors are not given full and unconditional recovery of investment, plus opportunity for double recovery. Yet that is what this proposal would achieve. The incumbent carrier would be fully compensated for its investment by a competitor, and then allowed further

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[6] 47 U.S.C. 251(c), 47 U.S.C. 252(b)(1).

[7] FCC Order FCC 96-325, paragraph 700.

[8] The term "current costs" probably means the costs as recorded in the utility's books and records. The current costs may reflect the utility's existing technology and past management decisions. In contrast, forward-looking costs attempt to estimate the costs if service were provided by an efficient provider and without limitations caused by historical factors.

[9] 47 C.F.R. 51.505.

[10] An interconnection agreement provides the terms and conditions for purchase of one carrier's services by a competitor.

opportunity for recovery as it uses those facilities for other purposes. New carriers may not want to risk entering Alaska markets knowing that by buying services from the incumbent, they may be required to pay all of the incumbent's investment within 90 days, as under this change.

Sec 5: Proposed AS 42.05.433(a) through (g). This proposal would allow full rate and quality of service deregulation of qualifying local and interexchange carriers. (Proposed AS 42.05.433(d)).

- It would prematurely deregulate local exchange carriers and allow deregulation even though 50% of the carrier's retail customers had no competitive choice. For example, if as a result of competition in Valdez, a carrier met the 50% benchmark, then service it provides to McCarthy would also be deregulated, even though the Commission might have a pending quality of service or rate complaint for that area.

  As another example, if services in a big city are deregulated and the Incumbent is given flexibility to raise local retail rates and UNE[11] rates at will (as would occur under Sections 5 & 8), then customers in subdivisions where the Incumbent had the only facilities would be positioned to pay the Incumbent's price, either directly or indirectly as the Competitor passed on to its customers the costs of the higher Incumbent UNE rates. Further, the Commission would be unable to address consumer quality of service complaints like those recently raised against a large Incumbent for providing wireless services in place of wire line services in Anchorage and other locations.

- This proposal could prematurely deregulate the entire state for long distance services even though Alascom, Inc. retains a facilities monopoly in many areas of the state and the FCC prevents competitors from building duplicate earth stations in most of Alaska. We also note that the term "long distance" is not defined, and therefore the scope of deregulation could be quite broad.

- If deregulation occurs before effective competition exists throughout a Competitive Service Area, then customers are likely to experience rate increases and reduction of service quality. The Commission will be able to take no meaningful action when rates increase in areas with an effective monopoly. The Commission would also be unable to act on any resultant complaints until after a formal proceeding successfully led to repeal of the self-certification as the result of a written finding and order. Given the minimal standards for deregulation at section (g), it would be unlikely that the Commission could properly regulate an area, even if it concluded the carrier held an effective monopoly.

[11] Unbundled Network Element

- The amendment would allow monopoly and other carriers to deregulate their services at will by self-certifying that the area satisfies the competitive service area standard of the section. Upon self-certification, all pending Commission proceedings, including those involving consumer complaints would appear to cease. As a result, carriers would have an incentive to prematurely self-certify so as to avoid or delay continued scrutiny of pending quality of service or rate investigations.

- Provisions of (f) are problematic if the intent is to assign carrier of last resort obligations among interexchange carriers based on retail market share. A carrier may have a significant retail market share while owning few facilities. Such carriers may be unable to meet new, required carrier of last resort obligations absent construction of significant new, duplicative facilities. We may be forced to require carriers to build new facilities at locations where duplicate earth stations would make no sense. Carriers may be reluctant to enter the market if this means they must take on carrier of last resort obligations. It would further enhance incumbent monopolies.

- Sharing carrier of last resort responsibilities among several interexchange carriers has the potential to reduce quality of service. For example, the networks of the two largest carriers (Alascom and GCI) use incompatible technologies. As a result, calls between the two networks may require that a call be placed using multiple satellite hops, reducing call quality. Also sharing carrier of last resort responsibilities may leave the state dependent upon multiple carriers with a variety of potentially incompatible systems. This may compromise system reliability and make network-wide planning difficult. Further, determination of "carriers of last resort" will be controversial as we attempt to assure universal service while preventing "cherry picking" of the most profitable locations.

Sec. 5 (Cont.): Proposed AS 42.05.435

- The intent of section (b) is ill defined. This provision states that arbitrated rates should be set as close as possible to the prices arrived at between a willing buyer and a willing seller (i.e., "market prices") yet arbitration would likely only occur if the buyer and seller were unwilling to agree on rates. Nor is it clear which "willing buyers" and which "willing sellers" are referred to. It is not necessarily reasonable to base Alaska interconnection rates on the prices willing buyers and sellers may reach in the Lower 48.

- Section (c) requires that a carrier be "fully compensated" for all capital expenditures related to the furnishing of its facilities to another carrier. Put another way, the carrier must be compensated for its current costs of investment. However, FCC regulations require that UNE rates be based on forward looking costs. As a result this provision would appear inconsistent with federal requirements.

Sec 6: AS 42.05.810

- This section implies the Commission may regulate a long distance carrier as dominant when the carrier has a statewide market share of 60% or more. However, earlier provisions effectively deregulate the long distance market, rendering this section moot.

Sec. 8: APPLICABILITY

- This section allows the incumbent local exchange carrier to immediately adjust its interconnection rates after providing a written statement to the Commission certifying its compliance with the state law. Self-certification is inconsistent with requirements of the Act that allow a competitor (or the incumbent) to petition a state commission for compulsory arbitration of interconnection rate disputes. 47 USC 252(b). Further there is no mechanism to allow dispute of the incumbent's self certification (outside of litigation or Federal preemption). To the extent that the incumbent can implement unjustified, high interconnection rates at will, it has the potential to significantly reduce the level of competition and increase its ability to raise rates to Alaskan citizens.

Sec: 9: CARRIER OF LAST RESORT

- This provision requires the Commission to determine the financial cost of the obligation of being a carrier of last resort while other provisions remove the tools (i.e., accounting standards) necessary to determine what may be a valid obligation.

- Payment toward the carrier of last resort's obligation is a form of universal service support. The Act requires that "all providers of telecommunications services" pay such compensation.[12] As this provision would limit payment to carriers serving a competitive area, it violates the federal telecommunications Act.

[12] 47 U.S.C. 254(b)(4).

TESTIMONY OF KRISTI CATLIN
HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
HOUSE BILL 111
MAY 15, 2003

Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee. For the record, my name is Kristi Catlin, Director of Government Affairs for AT&T Alascom, with its main business address at 210 E. Bluff Drive, Anchorage, Alaska 99501. Thank you for the opportunity to testify at this hearing.

Throughout this session, AT&T Alascom has consistently supported its Dominance amendment language, while reserving its opinion about the other proposed amendments until our internal analysis could be completed on those amendments. As you know, this amendment process has taken on a life of its own, and what started out to be a reasonable request for market definitions has now turned into a far-reaching amendment, parts of which cannot be supported by AT&T Alascom.

With that in mind, and after a great deal of thought and consideration, as a result of some of the changes that have been added to the amendment, AT&T Alascom intends to separate its pursuit of a definition of Dominance from the legislation re-authorizing the RCA. We continue to believe, however, that regulatory relief from Dominance is essential and must be dealt with as soon as possible. If a market is truly opened to competition, regulation should be decreased rather than increased. Under the current circumstances, we believe that our best course of action is to pursue the opening of a docket at the RCA that will deal exclusively with the issue of interexchange Dominance.

For these reasons, AT&T Alascom will support a clean bill with a 2-year reauthorization, which is the term recommended by legislative audit. The Commission's unwillingness to reduce regulation in competitive markets, however, must change. Until we are able to gauge the new Commission's ability and willingness to work toward reduced regulation in competitive markets, AT&T believes that a 3-4 year extension of the RCA is too long.

Thank you once again for this opportunity to present our testimony. I will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Subject: HB111
Date: Wed, 14 May 2003 09:37:01 -0800
From: "Leder, Gary S." <GLeder@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

Dear Rep McGuire,
I am writing for your help in amending HB111 to offer fairness in Alaska's telecom market. As you know, ACS has been operating at a loss as a result of being forced by law to lease their facilities to their competitor at below cost . Most people can not fathom how this can happen in America, I am one of them. Competition should be fair and true, HB 111 was amended at one point to reflect fairness. I urge you to investigate the amendments and I believe you will agree that they are logical and fair, not to mention long overdue.
The easy thing to do would be to just extend RCA's life for four years and let them deal with this. The problem, however, is that the RCA is the root cause of the gross unfairness in the telecom industry that we see today. The right thing to do, is give the RCA an extended life only with new rules to operate under, as proposed in the amendments to HB111.
This is a very deep issue and I hope you will educate yourself on the details. Alaskans will be the winners if true and fair competition were to finally come to our state in the telecom industry. Thank you for your time.
Gary Leder Juneau

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Subject: HB 111
Date: Wed, 14 May 2003 10:08:05 -0800
From: ibewjno@ptialaska.net
To: Representative_Norman_Rokeberg@legis.state.ak.us, Representative_Pete_Kott@legis.state.ak.us, Representative_John_Coghill@legis.state.ak.us, Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us, Representative_Carl_Morgan@legis.state.ak.us, Representative_Ethan_Berkowitz@legis.state.ak.us, Representative_Beth_Kerttula@legis.state.ak.us

Dear Rules Chair Rokeberg and Committee Members,

I write this letter to you all today asking for your support of HB111 with the amendment text added back into it that came from Labor and Commerce and was stripped out in House Finance. I am a lifelong Alaskan and Telecom worker for twenty four years in our State. I believe that it is now the time for our Legislature to extend our RCA's life, but more importantly to give it specific guidelines to make it act objectively and fairly to ensure competition in Alaska. These amendments will do just that. If competition is truly going to occur in Alaska these measures must be undertaken to make all competitors for markets and customers play by the same rules.

For too long now our APUC and the current RCA have placed unfair burdens on certain companies while favorably treating entrants into the original company's markets at the original company's expense. How can it possibly be fair for one company to have to build telecommunications infrastructure and lease it to a competitor for amounts that will not allow it to recover the cost of building? How can it be fair for the FCC to recommend accelerated depreciation rates for telecommunications companies and for our RCA to controvert that in their rulings here, thus slowing investment in new infrastructure and services? This is not fair and equitable treatment to all.

I believe that the Legislature is charged with the oversight of the RCA and needs to give it clear direction for the way competition is fairly carried out in Alaska. Again I ask that you support HB111 and add the amendments back into the Bill so that Alaskan consumers can enjoy the benefits of further investment in Alaska by companies providing state of the art services at reasonable prices. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Mike Notar
124 Front St.
Juneau, AK 99801
(907) 586-3050

Subject: Please support House Bill No.111 with the current amendments.
Date: Wed, 14 May 2003 12:39:03 -0800
From: gilbertc@acsalaska.net
To: "Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state

Please support House Bill No.111 with the current amendments.

Section 1. (1) Findings and Purpose. Says the Telecommunications Act of 1996 was enacted to foster the rapid deployment of advanced telecommunications, information technologies, and services Americans by promoting competition and reducing regulation in telecommunications nationwide.

ILEC like ACS have to share it's products and services with CLEC like GCI, this will not encourage companies like ACS to spend on capital projects and improve the rapid deployment of advanced telecommunications to serve Alaskans. This actually discourages companies like ACS to invest on NEW advanced technologies, ACS would have to share this NEW technology service with CLEC's like GCI, and they do not get any money on their return. Companies like GCI do not invest on any capital projects and improve the rapid deployment of advanced telecommunications to serve Alaskans, because they get for below cost with ILEC companies like ACS. Who ends up suffering? The public.

Ask GCI to be the carrier of last resort and they most likely with say they are not interested in that area. So the Carriers of last resort like ACS would be forced to deploy investment and then GCI comes back and wants to enter that area. Not a fair playing field.

Please vote for House Bill No.111with the current amendments.

My wife, my kids and myself thank you for doing this.
Thank you,
Gilbert Carrillo
8301 Majestic Dr
Anchorage AK 99504

Subject: Bill HB 111 With Amendments
Date: Wed, 14 May 2003 14:19:48 -0800
From: "Buttolph, Linda K." <LButtolp@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

You need to Approve Bill HB 111 with ALL AMENDMENTS! For Fair Competition, All Companies need to be on an equal playing field. I have been in the Telecommunications industry for over 21 years and have lived in Alaska for 31 years. I live in your district and request your Help to get this Bill Approved with the Amendments. I also work for ACS. If Bill HB 111 is approved without the Amendments, I feel ACS will not be able to continue Business. How can you find someone to Purchase a Company that can not turn a Profit, because your hands are tied. GCI will not be on the list to Purchase ACS, I can assure you.
The Agreement GCI is working under, was put in place when ATU was owned by the City of Anchorage. ATU did not need to show a Profit. ACS is a privately owned company, just like any other Business. If you did not show a Profit in your Own Business, you surely would not continue.

Competition to me is - Let all Companies place there own infrastructure.

NOW LET'S COMPETE

Sincerely

Linda Buttolph
2001 Shore Dr
Anchorage Alaska 99515

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Subject: HB111 must have amendments
Date: Wed, 14 May 2003 14:41:20 -0800
From: "Varness, Bob (Robert)" <Robert.Varness@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

My name is Bob Varness, I currently work for ACS in Juneau. I've worked Telecommunications in Alaska since 1976. Over the years I've traveled and worked in most all of the Southeast communities and some up North. In the past I've witnessed inefficient operations, procedures and practices that have given most communications monopolies the reputation they currently enjoy today. It's no secret, everyone loves to hate the telephone company. Moving beyond old thinking and beat up payphones, the industry changed a while back but some haven't really noticed. Competitors are still working the public for their not so fond memories and feelings of the past.

I'm proud to say since Alaska Communications Systems has purchased PTI, ATU and FMUS properties, I've seen positive change in all areas of the organizations. Our procedures and operational norms look quite different than a half decade ago. As part of our re-organization efforts, services we once gave away or what was included in the overall cost of doing business is not free anymore, so we must recover costs whenever we can due to reduced revenues from competition, but like all business, this is good business (you know, mean and lean) like everyone else we want to keep our rates competitive and give our customers a service of value. To accomplish these goals were required to charge most of our customers what it costs to do business, there are others we give a good deal to, because were required to do so by the RCA.

I don't understand why the RCA continues to subsidize CLEC's at the ILEC's expense, I don't think its fair to make one companies customers pay for another companies customers, is that realistic? that's happening today. Competition is a good thing, I'm all for it. Why are CLEC's not required to build out the Plant with the Universal Service Funds they receive. It's clear to me their not re-investing in the middle mile and all Alaskans telecommunications future is ultimately on the line. If the Alaskan lawmakers continue to let the RCA operate as they have been, I believe telecommunications in Alaska may suffer more than we all know. The old phone companies and the 900 lb. Gorilla attitude left Alaska 5 years ago, I don't think it's fair to stereotype the other new guy on the block.. ACS.

Thanks
Robert A.

Varness

3819

Killewich Drive

Juneau,

Alaska 99801

789.2433

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Subject: HB 111
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 06:44:03 -0800
From: "Joni" <jonij@arctic.net>
To: <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us>

Dear Ms. McGuire,

The RCA has consistently misinterpreted FCC regulations and manipulated them to bring about a slow death for competition in Alaska's Telephone Services and Internet Services market, as well as placing unfair burden on the Electrical Utilities in this great state. I can see subsidizing a new comers arrival in the market place for a year or two - but long term subsidies at the direct expense of the companies (now one) who spent decades and millions building the copper network that links Alaskans to each other, and to the outside world is not only unfair but should be brought to an end before there are over a thousand families with their bread winners in the unemployment lines!<?xml:namespace prefix = o ns = "urn:schemas-microsoft-com:office:office" />

I have been employed by both Chugach Electric and ACS through my years in Alaska and have seen jobs lost and red ink flow across the ledger pages because of actions by the RCA that are in direct contradiction to the advisements of the FCC that were designed to keep competition healthy and thriving in the lower 48. If the RCA were fair and effective in the regulations they produce and enforce - Alaskans would have a CHOICE about who to buy their technology services from in even the most remote locations. As things stand today - ACS operates the existing network at a loss and can't possibly expand the network or invest in new technology because it is required to serve GCI customers before it's own and at a loss of millions of dollars each year as customers go to GCI so enjoy the preferential treatment by ACS. How can this be fair or "free enterprise"?

I ask you - please reconsider the amendments that have been stripped from House Bill 111 and do NOT approve this bill without adding those amendments. We do not need to give anyone an advantage - we just need to make the playing field LEVEL for everyone! That's what these amendments would do - just make it fair so hard working Alaskans can stay in Alaska to raise their children and watch future generations benefit from wise legislative action taken today.

Thank you for your time.

Joni Johnson

Eagle River Alaska

Subject: House Bill 111
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 07:49:25 -0800
From: ibewjno@ptialaska.net
To: Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us, Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.state.ak.us, Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us, Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us, Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.state.ak.us, Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us, Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.state.ak.us

Dear Judiciary Chair McGuire, Vice-Chair Anderson and Committee Members,

I ask myself what is the main purpose of a corporation or any business? I believe I already know the answer. It is to make money. A novel conclusion and I am impressed with my analytical powers. Then I ask myself again why a certain "competitive" telecommunications corporation in our State would be so concerned for consumers, and willing to spend big money on full-page ads, radio and TV spots, and have an unsuccessful gubernatorial candidate endorse their efforts. It is greed, and their own knowledge that they enjoy unfair advantages in the telecommunications market, coupled with them feeling threatened by the possibility that they may lose these unfair advantages. Another novel conclusion, and again I am impressed with myself for figuring out that all the ads are an attempt to deceive the public. I question how effective they've actually been, but then realize they have at least succeeded in fooling Arliss and AARP with their scary misinformation and Madison Avenue ads.

Then I apply my knowledge of the industry in our State through my own twenty-plus years of experience in it. Having gone through the scary and uncertain times of deregulation in the 1980's, I've now come to the conclusion that there are not any telecommunications monopolies in Alaska anymore. If competition is what was wanted, then now let it truly and fairly begin. The Legislature can extend and give the RCA guidelines in statute that will assure that one company is not favored over another, or have to provide its facilities to the other for under-market and non-recoverable costs. If the RCA is only extended, without the necessary amendments to achieve this, that may well serve to further foster the success of one company and continue the downward spiral of another, resulting in the loss of nearly one thousand good paying jobs across our State. That would be bad public policy in my mind. I urge you to vote HB111 out of your Committee with the amendments added back in that were eliminated in the House Finance Committee. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Mike Notar
124 Front St.
Juneau, AK 99801
(907) 586-3050

Subject: HB 111
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 08:29:30 -0800
From: "Diamond, Barbara" <barbara.diamond@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

Dear Representative McGuire:

I have worked in the Telecommunications industry for twenty years and I find myself in a situation where my company is not allowed to compete.... my job security, retirement, and my future are at stake. Please support HB 111 and all its critical amendments.

ACS should be allowed to compete by the same rules as GCI. For example, ACS should be allowed to bundle together regulated and unregulated services such as local, long distance, Internet and Wireless (the cable monopoly- GCI- has been able to do this for over seven years). I encourage you to support HB 111 and all its critical amendments.

What we have witnessed through full-page ads, radio spots, Internet sites, and political maneuvering is an attempt to maintain a structure, which requires ACS to subsidize its chief competitor, GCI, the cable monopolist. This subsidy takes root in lease rates that are a mere fraction of the true cost ACS has incurred. I encourage you to support HB 111 and all its critical amendments.

Would ACS raise its Local and/or Business Customer Rates by $100 million annually? Of course not. Such action by ACS would drive customers to the competition. ACS would raise its interconnection fees so that GCI was paying a compensatory rate for use of the ACS Network. This is competition at work.

When House Bill 111 as amended passes, Alaskan telecommunications consumers will have real competition for the first time. Competition which allows all service providers to offer their "best" deals because all the competing companies will be operating under the same set of rules on a level playing field.

As a voter in your district, I encourage you to represent my family and myself when you cast your vote on this important legislation. Please support HB 111 and all its critical amendments.

Forcing ACS to subsidize its competitors is not competition. Please vote to support HB 111 and all its critical amendments.

Thank you

Sincerely

Barbara L. Diamond

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Subject: HB111 WITH AMENDMENTS
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 08:37:55 -0800
From: "Rondeau, Jane" <jrondeau@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

I am currently an ACS employee with an insider view of the telecommunications industry within Alaksa.

The competition between ACS and GCI is and has been controlled from the onset. Unlike the GCI commercial spin, it has never been a matter of letting freedom ring.
This restrained, deregulated environment has imposed regulations on ACS that are detrimental to it's survival. First, ACS is forced to lease lines to it's major competitor, GCI, below the cost of maintaining those lines. There is no incentive for ACS to enhance the infrastructure it's losing money on, and there is no incentive for GCI to get off the gravy train. Second, unlike GCI, ACS is restricted from bundling it's products. What this means is that the consumer who calls GCI has the ability to make one phone call, speak to one person, and order numerous products. If placing that order at ACS, the call would be transferred from department to department. Last, the rate of phone line depreciation is slighted in GCI's favor even though the burden of maintaining those lines lies with ACS. Due to legal trappings, ACS has lost 50% of the Anchorage market share, and is steadily losing more. ACS can't continue to exist and provide the service that Alaska depends upon unless there is legislative relief. No company can.

What other company would buy into this losing proposition? Will the infrastructure eventually collapse, or be propped up by corporate welfare?

The option of ACS failing doesn't' benefit Anchorage citizens or it's politicians.
In order to counter the downward spiral of the Alaskan communications systems, I urge you to vote yes on HB111, with amendments.

Sincerely,
Jane Rondeau

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Subject: HB111 With Amendments
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 08:39:50 -0800
From: "Ketchum, Judy" <JKETCHUM@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

I have worked here at Alaska Communications System for almost 17 years. I am really concerned that if we don't manage to make the competitive market more fair that ACS will eventually go down and many many layoffs will occur, possibly my job. I have invested a career in this business and am very concerned that is this HB111 with Amendments doesn't pass that what I have invested will be gone. The competition out there is not fair, our competitors can lease facilities cheaper than it costs us to maintain these, that makes it difficult to stay in business very long. In order to have fair competition out there we need to have the HB111 with Amendments to be passed as this will allow our competitors to lease at a price that will be fair in order to stay in business.

Having a government regulators setting all the rules does not do justice to competition, we need the market forces to do this to ensure that all competition is open and fair. Passing this House Bill with Amendments will allow ACS and GCI to complete in a fair business and allow ACS to be able to run our business in a very competitive fashion.

I urge you to please vote on passing this HB111 with Amendments in hopes that it will even out our competition and we can run a business with competitive prices on products, services. Thank you for your time, I will be following carefully and very attentively to what is happening with this HB as this may be my job or a retirement in the future depending on if it passes or not. I support the HB111 with Amendments and I hope I can count on you to pass the HB111 with Amendments so we can enjoy a fair competition market here in Anchorage.

Judy Ketchum
CABS Billing Specialist

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Subject: PLEASE SUPPORT HB 111 WITH AMMENDMENTS
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 08:41:23 -0800
From: "Powell, Laura A." <lpowell@acsalaska.com>
To: "'representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.state.ak.us'" <representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.sta
"'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat
"'Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.sta
"'Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.sta

Dear Honorable Representatives,

> My name is Laura Powell. I am a born and raised Alaskan. For most of my
> life I lived in Homer where there has always been only 1 phone company.
> So, I really want to see fair competition. I believe in it, as I feel it
> benefits the customer and it can also benefit the companies and our state
> to have fair competetion among companies.
>
> I work at ACS so it may seem that I am a little biased. But, I try to
> look at it from a laymans standpoint.
>
> If you can imagine having 2 small town bakers. One has a factory to
> manufacture the pie pans. They also have a full service bakery where they
> bake the pies with ingredients that they purchase. Baker B down the block
> doesn't have a factory or the ovens to make the pans or the pies. But the
> Baking commision tells Baker A that they must lease the pie pans to Baker
> B for less than what Baker A can make them for. But, not only must they
> lease them the pans, they must bake the pies and sell them to Baker B,
> below cost as well. Baker B sells the pies at a cheaper price than Baker
> A can and then when the pie pans get broken or dented they just have Baker
> A's factory repair them, at NO cost to Baker B.
>
> In this scenerio there is NO incentive for Baker B to buy their own
> factory or ovens. Why should they? They are getting a product at a cost
> that is cheaper than it would cost them to make the pies themselves.
>
> Where is the fairness? Where is the competition? Where is the
> regulation? Where is the monopoly? Where does that leave the customer
> when the "supplier" goes out of business and the re-seller doesn't own the
> equipment?
>
> This is a very simplistic way to look at the whole picture, I realize.
> This is how I would explain it to my children, who depend on me to keep my
> job. I am concerned that if HB111 passes without ammendments, that I may
> have to explain to my children why they can't have new clothes for
> school...And not only that, I will be explaining to my family who live in
> Homer, why another service provider in that town will be suffering because
> of "regulations." They already have lost out on other services that the
> rest of the state enjoys....
>
> I urge you to support HB111 WITH ammendments.
>
> It's the fair thing to do. It's the right thing to do, for the companies
> involved, for all the customers involved and for all Alaskans.
> Competition is a great tool, when it is used properly.
>
> Thank you for your time and consideration.
>

> *Laura Powell*
> *564-1466 work*
>
>
>
>
>
>

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Subject: I support HB 111
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 08:43:33 -0800
From: "Johnson, Maydeen R." <maydeen.johnson@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

What the RCA has done to ACS is unfair.

The public is also being mislead, misinformed & deceived by GCI & the media. ACS is a long time alaskan corporation, what are these fellow alaskans doing?

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Subject: HB111
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 12:43:50 -0400
From: "Connie Maze" <cmaze@acsalaska.com>
To: "The Honorable Lesil L. McGuire" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us>

Connie Maze
1506 Wolverine Street
Anchorage, AK 99504

May 15, 2003

The Honorable Lesil L. McGuire
House of Representatives
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative McGuire:

I have worked in the Telecommunications industry for a relatively short time but decided to start a career in this field. Now I find myself in a situation where my job security and retirement, my future, is at stake because the company I work for is not allowed to compete. Please support HB111 and all its critical amendments.

When House Bill 111 as amended passes, Alaskan telecommunications consumers will have real competition for the first time. Competition which allows all service providers to offer their best deals because all the competing companies will be operating under the same set of rules, on a level playing field. For seven years GCI has been allowed to bundle together regulated and unregulated services, such as, local, long distance, Internet and Wireless. ACS has not been allowed to do so. ACS is required to subsidize GCI by lease rates that are a fraction of the true cost ACS incurs. Basically, ACS is forced to give GCI use of our company infrastructure, for the sake of competition, without being allowed to collect proper compensation for that use. This is not competition it's subsidy. Please support HB111 and all its critical amendments.

I have seen TV ads, heard radio ads, by politicians, paid for by GCI, stating that, ACS will raise its rates by $100 million annually if HB111 is passed. This is ridiculous! That would drive our customers to the competition. ACS would raise its interconnection fees so that GCI was paying a compensatory rate for use of the ACS Network. GCI doesn't want to give up their free ride, that they have enjoyed far too long. If the concern is really competition, why has nothing been done to address the monopoly that GCI has in the cable industry.

As a voter, I encourage you to represent my family and myself when you cast your vote on this important legislation. Please support HB111 and all its critical amendments.

Sincerely,

Connie Maze

Subject: HB 111
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 08:47:28 -0800
From: "Schimmeyer, Brent" <BSchimmeyer@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

hello my name is brent schimmeyer born and raised here in alaska and a constant voter. im just letting you know that i support the HB 111 with amendments and would like to see it go through. it would level the playing field in alaska and force GCI to pay there far share for using the network that ACS builds and maintains

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Subject: HB 111 Yes, support for Amendments
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 08:52:15 -0800
From: "LeNorman, Stacy" <IMCEAEX-_O=ALASKA+20COMMUNICATIONS+20SYSTEMS+2C+2
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

With all due respect,
I support House Bill 111 as amended. I would hope you would support the bill as amended as well.

When this amended bill passes, Alaskan telecommunications consumers will have real competition for the first time. Competition which allows all service providers to offer their 'best' deals because all the competing companies will be operating under the same set of rules on a level playing field.

Please support this amended bill. Thank you,

Stacy LeNorman
410 Kayak Drive
Anchorage, AK 99515
(907) 348-0101

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Subject: Support for HB111 WITH ALL AMENDMENTS
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 08:56:30 -0800
From: "Dunham, Curtis L" <cdunham@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat
"'Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.sta
"'Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.s
"'Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.sta

I have worked in the Telecommunications industry for three years and I find myself in a situation where my company is not allowed to compete, because of unfair regulations by the RCA. My job security, retirement, and my children's future are at stake. Please support HB 111 and all its critical amendments. ACS should be allowed to compete by the same rules as GCI. For example, ACS should be allowed to bundle together regulated and unregulated services such as local, long distance, Internet and Wireless (the cable monopoly- GCI- has been able to do this for over seven years). What we have witnessed through full-page ads, radio spots, Internet sites, and political maneuvering is an attempt to maintain a structure, which requires ACS to subsidize its chief competitor, GCI, the cable monopoly company. If you look at GCI's balance sheet their biggest money looser is their local phone service. They simply drive up the cost of cable TV (over $60 per month now) This subsidy drives down the service to Alaskans because their is no incentive to build or upgrade the infrastructure with lease rates that are a mere fraction of the true cost ACS has incurred. If HB 111 is passed with amendments ACS would raise its interconnection fees so that GCI was paying a fair rate for use of the ACS Network. This is competition at work.

When House Bill 111 as amended passes, Alaskan telecommunications consumers will have real competition for the first time. Competition which allows all service providers to offer their "best" deals because all the competing companies will be operating under the same set of rules on a level playing field. As a voter in your district, I encourage you to represent my family and myself when you cast your vote on this important legislation. Please support HB 111 and all its critical amendments.

Forcing ACS to subsidize its competitors is not competition. Please vote to support HB 111 and all its critical amendments.

Curt Dunham
ACS 4-wire board
Private Line Apprentice
564-5960

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Subject: HB111 with all critical amendments attached
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 08:57:06 -0800
From: "Bivins, Ellen" <ebivins@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

Dear Rep. McGuire,

I am an employee of Alaska Communications Systems and am writing you to ask that you support HB111 with all the critical amendments attached. As an employee of ACS, I have become more aware of the unfair competition between ACS and their competitors, specifically GCI. I have had a growing concern over this, and compare it to my purchasing my groceries at Carr's (representative of ACS), and paying for them at Fred Meyers (representative of the competition).

I understand thr reasons initially for the "subsidized" competition that the U.S. Government set up after breaking up Bell Telephone, however, in Alaska we have a pretty even split of customers between GCI and ACS, with ACS footing the entire expense for plant in the ground, subsidizing GCI for the use of our lines, which they charge their customers, and it is pure profit for them.

I have concerns regarding the continued financial health of the company I work for, and have concerns that the layoffs we have experienced to date will continue, if we do not see changes. I am asking that you support open and fair competition, ensure that we are able to lease our facilities at the real cost of those facilities, removing the unfair competition that currently exists in our state. If the bill passes without the critical amendments attached, it will be business as usual in the telecommunications industry in Alaska, and I fear the health of the company I work for will continue to plummet, and layoffs will increase. The employees of this company only want what is fair, and that is to have HB111 pass with all critical amendments attached.

Thank you for your time.

Ellen Bivins
Sr. Clerical Specialist
Field Services, Central District
564-1112 fax 563-0662
MS#18

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Subject: HB111 with all the amendments
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 09:01:27 -0800
From: "Naylor, Alisha L." <anaylor@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

I am a proud employee of Alaska Communications Systems and am writing you to ask that you support HB111 with all the amendments attached. As an employee of ACS, I have become more aware of the unfair competition between ACS and their competitors, specifically GCI. I have had a growing concern over this, and compare it to my purchasing my groceries at Carr's (representative of ACS), and paying for them at Fred Meyers (representative of the competition).

ACS should be allowed to compete by the same rules as GCI. For example, ACS should be allowed to bundle together regulated and unregulated services such as local, long distance, Internet and Wireless (the cable monopoly- GCI- has been able to do this for over seven years). I encourage you to support HB 111 and all its critical amendments.

What we have witnessed through full-page ads, radio spots, Internet sites, and political maneuvering is an attempt to maintain a structure, which requires ACS to subsidize its chief competitor, GCI, the cable monopolist. This subsidy takes root in lease rates that are a mere fraction of the true cost ACS has incurred. I encourage you to support HB 111 and all its critical amendments.

Would ACS raise its Local and/or Business Customer Rates by $100 million annually? Of course not. Such action by ACS would drive customers to the competition. ACS would raise its interconnection fees so that GCI was paying a compensatory rate for use of the ACS Network. This is competition at work.

When House Bill 111 as amended passes, Alaskan telecommunications consumers will have real competition for the first time. Competition which allows all service providers to offer their "best" deals because all the competing companies will be operating under the same set of rules on a level playing field.

As a voter in your district, I encourage you to represent my family and myself when you cast your vote on this important legislation. Please support HB 111 and all its critical amendments.

Forcing ACS to subsidize its competitors is not competition. Please vote to support HB 111 and all its critical amendments.

Alisha Naylor
564-1640
ACS Marketing

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Subject: Fwd: RCA
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 09:02:35 -0800
From: "Matthew Callahan" <matthewjcallahan@hotmail.com>
To: Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us

Hello, please do everything within your power to eliminate the unfair and unbalanced special treatments that GCI has been receiving from the RCA. *All communications service providors should receive equal treatment.* Under the guise of competition, GCI has persuaded the RCA to require other companies to sell them their services *at below costs* so that GCI can then resell it to customers. This severely undercuts these companies' ability to operate in the black. Fair competion is great, but subsidizing one company at the expense of others it not only obsurd, it is punitive, unfair, and restrictive to those companies and the customers they service. It is hendering new technological development and improvements because it is artificially removing profit/investment dollars from one company and shifting them to GCI. Please consider carefully all the facts when you make your votes on this issue. ***Please pass HB-111 with all critical ammendments***. Thank you, Matthew Callahan

---

Protect your PC - Click here for McAfee.com VirusScan Online

Subject: HB 111
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 09:05:26 -0800
From: "Nutting, Madeline M." <MNutting@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat
"'Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.sta
"'Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.s

Dear Fellow Alaskans,

I am very concerned with the House Bill 111. I am a proud ACS employee since 1999. I am hoping the HB111 passes with the amendments to level the playing field with the GCI competition. I have a long history of customer service in retail sales and in that environment there was competition daily, which is a given, but the vendors we dealt with gave purchasers similar costs/savings on the same product. However if there isn't "Fair competition", a company can suffer terribly! Won't you please allow this House Bill 111 to pass with all the amendments, so ACS can have a FAIR Chance at competition and not suffer any longer with having to lease facilities to GCI below ACS' cost?

I thank you for your attention to this matter!

Madeline Nutting
Customer Service Representative
459-6158

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Subject: HB 111
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 09:05:35 -0800
From: "Lesbo, Pam" <plesbo@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

Hello,
I have worked in the Telecommunications industry for many years and I find myself in a situation where my company is not allowed to compete....my job security, my retirement and my future is at stake. Please, please support HB 111 and all it's critical amendments.

ACS should be allowed to compete by the same rules as GCI. For example, ACS should be allowed to bundle together regulated and unregulated services such as local, long distance, Internet and Wireless (the cable monopoly - GCI - has been able to do this for over seven years). I encourage you to support HB 111 and all it's critical amendments.

What we have witnessed through full-page ads, radio spots, Internet sites and political maneuvering is an attempt to maintain a structure which requires ACS to subsidize it's chief competitor, GCI, the cable monopolist. This subsidy takes root in lease rates that are a mere fraction of the true cost ACS has incurred. I encourage you to support HB 111 and all it's critical amendments.

Would ACS raise it's Local and/or Business Customer Rates by $100 million annually? Of course not. Such action by ACS would drive customers to the competition. ACS would raise it's interconnection fees so that GCI way paying a compensatory rate for use of the ACS Network. This is competition at work.

When House Bill 111 as amended passes, Alaskan telecommunications consumers will have real competition for the first time. Competition which allows all service providers to offer their "best" deals because all the competing companies will be operating under the same set of rules on a level playing field.

As a voter, I encourage you to represent my family and myself when you cast your vote on this important legislation. Please support HB 111 and all it's critical amendments.

Forcing ACS to subsidize it's competitors is not competition. Please vote to support HB 111 and all it's critical amendments.

Thank you,

Pam Lesbo
ACS/End User Billing
564-1713
plesbo@acsalaska.com

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Subject: HB 111
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 09:06:42 -0800
From: "Larsen, Robert" <rlarsen@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat
"'Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.sta
"'Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.sta
"'Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.s

I have lived in Alaska since 1968, when my Father was transferred with Continental Telephone to Manage all Continental properties in the state. His name was Ken Larsen and he was a powerful figure in the communication industry in his day. When he arrived in Alaska the communication industry was in a mess. 14 party lines were not uncommon and prices were out of control. Antiquated equipment dominated the market and one was lucky to be able to call "outside" and talk to friends and family. My Father died last month and left behind his legacy of building one of the most sophisticated networks in the world. But he too, died concerned about the state of the communications industry in Alaska. For too long GCI has been getting away with grand theft. They don't pay for any of the infrastructure yet capitalize on its placement. My Father believed in competition but knew that the word Competition to GCI was merely a marketing plow. My Father was never afraid of a good fight but only if it was a level playing field. He would be writing to you today and asking for you to support HB 111 WITH AMENDMENTS and put all the Utilities on a level playing field if he were still alive. I am writing for him today, no doubt from heaven, and asking that you please bring real competition to Alaska and pass this bill with amendments. I thank you in advance for your time. Bob Larsen

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Subject: [Fwd: HB111 PLEASE VOTE FOR THE AMENDMENTS]
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 09:13:18 -0800
From: Sue Gullufsen <Sue_Gullufsen@legis.state.ak.us>
Organization: Alaska State Legislature
To: Representative Lesil McGuire <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us>

Subject: HB111 PLEASE VOTE FOR THE AMENDMENTS
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 08:57:30 -0800
From: "Blair, Betsy" <bblair@acsalaska.com>
To: "'webmaster@legis.state.ak.us'" <webmaster@legis.state.ak.us>

Dear Lesil McGuire,

I implore you to really listen to the honest people that work at ACS and Chugach Electric and other utilities. I have lived here in Anchorage for 36 years. I am still raising my family of 3 children and not only need to keep my job, but more importantly, the city of Anchorage needs the city to have honest and fair people to run the Regulatory Commission. And as it stands, we are loosing money because it cost a lot more to make and keep the telephone lines than we are being paid. We are no longer the monopoly. Those rules were put in place when everything was deregulated. It was the beginning of a new time and new rules. Things have changed drastically. It is time to level the playing field. And make the rules even for all companies, Equal in competition . That's all we ask. FAIRNESS, HONESTY, AND INTEGREGITY. Please Senator, vote FOR THE AMENDMENT.. We are not special interest. We are being hurt and companies are able to use the extra monies to hurt us more.. There are a lot of people that work in these utilities and we need our jobs just like every one else.. We are not asking for more than we deserve. Fairness is what it is all about.. Thank you so much for your time and attention. I did see you on the news today. I was impressed. I can see you do believe and work hard to make things right, and fair.. I surely appreciate you for daring to believe in WHATS RIGHT. It takes a lot of courage and convection..

Appreciative and Sincerely
Betsy Blair

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Sue Gullufsen
Manager
Legislative Information & Teleconferencing
Legislative Affairs Agency

Subject: Please support the HB 111 with ALL amendments
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 09:21:23 -0800
From: "Reid, Susie" <sreid2@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat
"'Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.sta
"'Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.sta
"'Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.s

> The bread and butter of Telecommunications Companies is the front line-
> Customer Service.
>
>
>
> I am a former customer service representative and outside sales
> representative for GCI. My years at GCI were successful. I have a high
> respect for the company and especially for CEO Mr. Ron Duncan.
>
> In 2000 I was offered a position at ACS and accepted. With my experience
> at GCI I have been profoundly horrified in witnessing the relentless ways
> in which GCI has been allowed to operate so unfairly against ACS. My job
> at ACS allows me to witness first hand the GCI accounts that have
> accumulated at a rate that ACS has no chance of any fairness. I have
> emailed and spoken to countless individuals about my findings for over two
> years, regardless of my fears for ACS the accounts for GCI continue to
> build at a phenomenal rate.
>
> I have voiced my most favorable solution for ACS and have expressed it's
> urgency without any success. I am not about to let this company collapse
> without trying every avenue to have competetive fairness finally be
> delivered to ACS.
>
> Having worked at GCI on the front line, customer service, I learned first
> hand of the importance of giving excellent customer service. At GCI I
> heard over and over again from happy customers calling in of how wonderful
> it was to make one call or get one visit and being taken care of by one
> customer service representative. At the time GCI was open on the phones
> 24 hours a day, seven days a week. At GCI when a customer called in I
> could offer and sell all the GCI products which included cable/digital
> television, local and long distance phone service, internet service/ cable
> modem installation, phone cards, cell phone service and promotions. It
> was a customers delight to have all their questions answered with one
> representative and not having to wait lengthy hold times to be transferred
> from one department to another for each and every product, as is the case
> at ACS. ACS is not allowed, by law, to delight and satisfy the Anchorage
> consumers as GCI does and does with devastating consequences to ACS.
> Bottom line is: The laws need to change. The laws need to include ACS and
> AT&T. The laws need to become what is ethical and enhances the true
> meaning of Fair Competition. GCI is the first company in the United
> States to have created such a successful way of selling
> telecommunications. The ability for GCI to do so while ACS is forced to
> operate as the "old school".. one product, one representative, another
> transfer to another department for a second ACS product, and then a third
> and maybe a forth transfer for a higher monthly fee than GCI is due to the
> result of the current laws. GCI's extravagant advantages in the customer
> service arena and it's results is, in one word, criminal. The current
> laws have lifted GCI as the monopoly, forcing ACS to fail. This will soon
> lead to the devastation of hundreds of employees and their families.

> *There are so many issues like, cost for maintenance and so on that are hurting ACS. I want to focus on what I know first hand that leads GCI to success. GCI's customer service is a powerful telecommunications wheel that rolls thousands and thousands of ACS customers into their web of more affordable products. The products are more affordable because ACS is forced by law to have higher rates than GCI. The powerful tool of cross selling several products by one customer service representative is a consumers dream come true and ACS's nightmare of seeing the results of unfair competition.*
>
> *Please allow competition to begin at ACS's front line, change the laws that are leading to the collapse of ACS, a company that strives for competetive fairness for Alaska.*
>
Please Support the HB 111 with ALL amendments.
>
> *Susie Reid 907-564-1750*
> *Alaska Communications Systems*
> *Revenue Requirements*
>
>
>
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Subject: PLEASE SUPPORT HB111 WITH AMENDMENTS!!!!
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 09:25:52 -0800
From: "Sipin, Annabelle" <ASipin@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat
"'Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.sta
"'Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.sta
"'Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Max_Gruenberg@lelgis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Max_Gruenberg@lelgis.

As a member of the telecommunications industry workforce, I respectfully and strongly encourage you to support HB111 WITH ALL ITS CRITICAL AMENDMENTS. This will allow Alaskan telecommunications consumers the "best" deals because competing companies will be operating under the same set of rules on a level playing field.

Thank you.

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Subject: Support HB 111 "with amendments"
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 09:28:21 -0800
From: "Newlun, Amy S" <ANewlun@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

I am in support of house bill HB 111 "with amendments". Please vote accordingly. Thank you and I hope to continue to support you in the future.

Amy Newlun

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Subject: HB 111
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 13:29:53 -0400
From: "David Kelly" <dgkelly@att.net>
To: "The Honorable Lesil L. McGuire" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us>

David Kelly
3761 Chiniak Bay Drive
Anchorage, AK 99515

May 15, 2003

The Honorable Lesil L. McGuire
House of Representatives
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative McGuire:

My wife Cathy, my son Paul and I all support the passage of HB 0111. We feel it is long overdue. Please push for it's passage.

Thank You,

David Kelly

Sincerely,

David Kelly

Subject: FOR all Amendments Bill Hb 111
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 09:29:57 -0800
From: "Muller, Richard T." <rmuller@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat
"'Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.sta
"'Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.sta
"'Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.s
CC: "'upuha54@ptialaska.net'" <upuha54@ptialaska.net>,
"'richard.muller@acsalaska.net'" <richard.muller@acsalaska.net>

My name is Richard Muller. I have lived in Alaska all my life. I worked in the Telecommunications field for about 7 years now, three years with ACS.

This bill affects my lively hood along with over a thousand other Alaskans. I don't believe the regulations that are in place now are fair and equitable. ACS has lost 50% of the market place in Anchorage. If regulations don't change too even out the playing field so either player has an advantage, there are going to be a lot of people with out jobs and we are going to be back to a monopoly. ACS's hands are tied. Our competitor has the upper hand. It would be like if you owned a piece of commercial property and the mortgage was $3200.00 per mo. Then the government stepped in and ordered you to lease it out at $2500.00 per month. This is simple economics. You are not going to be in business very long.

If you would go to: http://biz.yahoo.com/e/1/g/gncma.html. I am sure you are aware that GCI has raised their cable rates to subsidize their local access.

I remember when there were two newspapers in Anchorage. The price of a newspaper was $.25. Placing newspaper ads was inexpensive. Right after the Times folded the price of the newspapers and ads double due to no competition.

This last Gubernatorial race we were all lied to. Our new Governor told us exactly what we wanted to hear so he would be elected. In the next election I will not be voting for him or his daughter. What he did was wrong. I believe that GCI is on their way to monopolizing the telephone-datacomunications market in Alaska. They are plastering the media with negative ad campaigns. People are being led with a carrot in front of their faces and are not seeing the whole picture. They are being fattened up for the kill. What do you think will happen to the economy in Anchorage with out those jobs? There will be a lot less expendable monies. Businesses will suffer. Real estate will suffer. The economy in Anchorage will come to a grinding halt.

I believe in my Democratic right to vote. I didn't realize how important voting is until I was in my mid 20's. Since then I have not missed voting at an election. I would appreciate your attention and support

Richard Muller
ACS
Voter ID 07361497
Private Line Testing Facilities
264-5960

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Subject: I support House Bill 111 WITH AMENDMENTS
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 09:31:13 -0800
From: "Revilla,Richard" <rrevilla@acsalaska.com>
To: Comm member <Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us>,
Comm member <Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us>,
Comm member <Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.state.ak.us>,
Comm member <Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us>,
Comm member <Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.state.ak.us>,
Comm member <Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.state.ak.us>,
"Comm member (E-mail)" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us>

Committee members,
As a registered voter in Alaska, I urgently petition you to support HB111 with ALL amendments. The regulated environment that exists now has NOT succeeded in creating a fair and level playing field for the respective companies involved. Currently, due to the clear advantage GCI has in this regulated environment, there is no incentive for ACS to introduce and install the latest telecommunication technology available since they would only be supporting the competitions customers. Everybody loses because of this. Let us also not forget that GCI already has monopolized the cable market and is seeking to do the same in the telephone market. This country and this state has always prided itself on being the Land of Equal Opportunity and I feel that to pass HB111 without all of the critical amendments is to not support what this country and state are all about.
Thank you
Richard J. Revilla

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Subject: SUPPORT HB 111 AND ALL ITS CRITICAL AMENDMENTS
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 09:33:46 -0800
From: "Erickson, Becky" <BERICKSO@acsalaska.com>
To: "'representative_lesil_mcguire@legis.state.ak.us'" <representative_lesil_mcguire@legis.state.ak.u
"'representative_tom_anderson@legis.state.ak.us'" <representative_tom_anderson@legis.state.ak
"'representative_dan_ogg@legis.state.ak.us'" <representative_dan_ogg@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'representative_jim_holm@legis.state.ak.us'" <representative_jim_holm@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'representative_ralph_samuels@legis.state.ak.us'" <representative_ralph_samuels@legis.state.ak
"'representative_les_gara@legis.state.ak.us'" <representative_les_gara@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'representative_max_gruenberg@legis.state.ak.us'" <representative_max_gruenberg@legis.state

As a voter, worker, family person in the State Of Alaska, I encourage you to represent my family and myself when you cast your vote on this important legislation. Please Support HB 111 and all its critical amendments.

I have been employed in telecommunications since 1985 (ATU that is now ACS). It is embarrassing to arrive at a GCI customers establishment to install new service or to fix a phone problem and the customer chastises you for being a ACS employee. We explain the situation that ACS owns the service lines and does all the repairs for the lines GCI leases.

If GCI had to design, build and maintain their own property then and only then would Alaskan telecommunications consumers have real competition for the first time. Competition which allows all service providers to offer their "best" deals because all the competing companies will be operating under the same set of rules on a level playing field.

Forcing ACS to subsidize its competitors is not competition. Please support HB 111 and all its critical amendments.

Becky Erickson
ACS OSP Construction & Splicing
564-1056 office
244-0173 cellular

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Subject: HB111 with all critical amendments attached
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 09:35:59 -0800
From: bivins@acsalaska.net
To: Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.state.ak.us, Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us, Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.state.ak.us, Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us, Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us, Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.state.ak.us, Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us

Dear Representatives,

My wife is an employee of Alaska Communications Systems and I am writing you to ask that you support HB111 with all the critical amendments attached. We have become more aware of the unfair and double standard competition between ACS and their competitors, specifically GCI.

I understand the reasons initially for the "subsidized" competition that the U.S. Government set up after breaking up Bell Telephone, however, in Alaska the competition is stiff between GCI and ACS, and because ACS is unable to compete fairly and evenly, we have been unable to provide the kind of service our competitors are allowed to provide. ACS is currently unable to bundle service as their competitor is able to do. The current split of customers is around 50%, and ACS is required to subsidize GCI with the use of their facilities at a reduced price.

I have concerns regarding the continued financial health of the company my wife work for, and have concerns that the layoffs that the company has experienced to date will continue, if we do not see changes. I am asking that you support open and fair competition, ensure that ACS is able to lease their facilities at the real cost of those facilities, removing the unfair competition that currently exists in our state. If the bill passes without the critical amendments attached, it will be business as usual in the telecommunications industry in Alaska, and I fear the health of the company my wife works for will continue to plummet, and layoffs will increase. Our family and the employees of this company only want what is fair, and that is to have HB111 pass with all critical amendments attached.

Thank you for your time.
Gary Bivins

Subject: PLEASE SUPPORT BILL HB 111
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 09:37:16 -0800
From: "Hall, Beverly O." <BHall@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

I have worked for ACS & previous owners for 26 years now. Because my company-ACS is not allowed to compete .. my job and retirement are at stake.
I support bill HB 111 and all its critical amendments .& i ask for your support to get this bill passed .Acs should be allowed to compete by the same rules as our competor-GCI . We should be allowed to bundle together regulated & unregulated services as local service, long distance , internet & wireless, which GCI has been doing for over seven years. they have the monolpy on cable ..
I ask that you SUPPORT HB 111 AND ALL ITS CRITICAL AMENDMENTS , IT IS SO IMPORTANT TO THE FUTURE OF ACS . We are the most highly skilled workforce in the state and we can compete with anyone, if we are given a fair playing field.

PLEASE, PLEASE SUPPORT HB 111 & ALL ITS CRITICAL AMENDMENTS
THANK YOU ....
Beverly Hall

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Subject: Give us a chance! Make it fair... I support HB111 and all its a mendments!
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 09:37:27 -0800
From: "Estep, Pamela" <pestep@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

How about letting ACS develop a cable television customer base and lease GCI equipment for pennies, which would enable us to provide ACS cable television service to OUR customers at a much lower cost of service than GCI could provide? Do you think GCI could stay in the cable business if they had to foot the bill to maintain all the equipment necessary to provide service to their customers AND ours? This is exactly the scenario in regard to the telecom side of our relationship with GCI. They lease our equipment for pennies, which enables them charge their customers less which, of course, brings them more customers for less money!

Pam Estep
ACS Payroll
907.564.1552

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Subject: HB 111
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 09:37:33 -0800
From: "Wilke, Patrick" <Pat.Wilke@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

Dear Representative Lesil McGuire

I have worked in the Telecommunications industry for many years and I find myself in a situation where my company is not allowed to compete.... my job security, retirement, and my children's future are at stake. Please support HB 111 and all its critical amendments.

ACS should be allowed to compete by the same rules as GCI. For example, ACS should be allowed to bundle together regulated and unregulated services such as local, long distance, Internet and Wireless (the cable monopoly- GCI- has been able to do this for over seven years). I encourage you to support HB 111 and all its critical amendments.

What we have witnessed through full-page ads, radio spots, Internet sites, and political maneuvering is an attempt to maintain a structure, which requires ACS to subsidize its chief competitor, GCI, the cable monopolist. This subsidy takes root in lease rates that are a mere fraction of the true cost ACS has incurred. I encourage you to support HB 111 and all its critical amendments.

Would ACS raise its Local and/or Business Customer Rates by $100 million annually? Of course not. Such action by ACS would drive customers to the competition. ACS would raise its interconnection fees so that GCI was paying a compensatory rate for use of the ACS Network. This is competition at work.

When House Bill 111 as amended passes, Alaskan telecommunications consumers will have real competition for the first time. Competition which allows all service providers to offer their "best" deals because all the competing companies will be operating under the same set of rules on a level playing field.

As a voter in your district, I encourage you to represent my family and myself when you cast your vote on this important legislation. Please support HB 111 and all its critical amendments.

Forcing ACS to subsidize its competitors is not competition. Please vote to support HB 111 and all its critical amendments.

Patrick Wilke

Engineer

ACS Wireless & Messaging

600 Telephone Ave. MS#28

Anchorage, Ak 99503

pat.wilke@acsalaska.com

Ofc: 907.564.8012

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Subject: HB111 With Amendments
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 09:38:12 -0800
From: "Ketchum, Judy" <JKETCHUM@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat
"'Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.sta
"'Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.sta
"'Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.s

I have worked here at Alaska Communications Systems for 17 years. I have seen several changes take place in the telecommunications field. I find myself in a situation where my company isn't allowed to compete in a fair market and that my job, retirement, and children's future are at stake. I am hoping that I can get your support on HB111 with the critical amendments to ensure that we have a fair competitive market in telecommunication to work with now. It is imperative that this HB111 with the amendments passes to keep competition out there in the market fair for everyone.

ACS is NOT going to raise rates to the Local or Business Customers as such action like this would cause our customers to go to the competition where there is a more reasonable rate. This passing HB111 with the Amendments will help us to raise the interconnection fees so that GCI or any other competitor out in the market would pay compensatory rates for the use of the ACS Network. I feel like this would keep the competition in the playing field and not allow it to get so one sided. Forcing ACS to subsidize its competitors is not competition.

If you support and pass the HB111 with all the critical amendments attached it, it will finally allow ACS to bundle some of the packages as GCI does now, to allow our customers that are loyal to us and new customers that we obtain, to be able to receive special package offers. We can give them the same service that GCI has been able to give for the last seven years.

As a voter in your district, I hope to encourage you to represent my family and myself as you are casting your vote on the HB111 with the amendments.

Please Support HB111 And Its Critical Amendments

Judy Ketchum
CABS Billing Specialist

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Subject: HB111
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 09:38:45 -0800
From: "Dicaprio, Wendy" <WDICAPRI@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

Please support this bill with all its critical amendments.
I have worked in telecommunications industry for 28 years and firmly believe that ACS should be allowed to compete by the same rules as GCI. For example, ACS should be allowed to bundle together regulated and unregulated services such as local, long distance, Internet and Wireless (the cable monopoly- GCI- has been able to do this for over seven years).

What we have witnessed through full-page ads, radio spots, Internet sites, and political maneuvering is an attempt to maintain a structure, which requires ACS to subsidize its chief competitor, GCI, the cable monopolist. This subsidy takes root in lease rates that are a mere fraction of the true cost ACS has incurred.

GCI is constantly complaining that these amendments will cause telephone rates to skyrocket. They are the ones who might have to raise rates when they have to start paying ACS a fair price for the facilities they are using.

When House Bill 111 (as amended) passes, Alaskan telecommunications consumers will have real competition for the first time. Competition which allows all service providers to offer their "best" deals because all the competing companies will be operating under the same set of rules on a level playing field.

Sincerely,
Wendy DiCaprio

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Subject: HB111
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 09:42:10 -0800
From: "Urias, Richard G." <RUrias@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

Dear Representative McGuire

I am a 32 year resident and voter from Sitka. I am married and have 5 children, 4 of whom were born and raised in Sitka. I am also a 27 year employee of the local telephone company ACS. The passage of HB 111 without the critical amendments will continue to cripple the company I work for in the competitive telephone market. Although Sitka and most other communities in Southeast have not been affected by the introduction of competition in the local phone market I have seen first hand how it has affected the building and maintaining of the infrastructure critical to providing the quality and state of the art phone service that our state enjoys. The loss of revenue from services that are given to our competition at rates that are far below what it costs for us to maintain is not what competition is all about. If the RCA is to continue along its present course I fear for the jobs of my co-workers both here in Sitka and all over the state of Alaska. Again I urge you to support HB111 and critical amendments attached so that the incumbent local service provider can be free to compete in the telephone market. ACS must be able to market its products without the regulatory confines that are not placed on our competition.
Thanks for your time.
Sincerely
Richard Urias
511 Verstovia
Sitka, Alaska 99835

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Subject: Please support HB111 with amendments, here why:
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 09:42:25 -0800
From: "Anderson, N. (Keith)" <keith.anderson@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat
"'Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.sta
"'Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.sta
"'Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.st

Dear Honored House Judiciary Committee members:

I'll admit I don't usually take the time to write or contact you when an issue sparks controversy or indirectly affects me so it's with a sense of shameless self-preservation that I write to you today. To start with, I'm an ACS employee represented by the IBEW so I'm used to the ground being shaky with all the buyouts and cutbacks the company has gone through over the last 5 years. I started with MUS in Fairbanks, then it became PTI, then Centurytel and then of course, ACS which really amounted to a merger with ATU. With each change in ownership, management and corporate culture, there was plenty of uncertainty concerning my job and my future but it pales in comparison to the uncertainty we employees of ACS now face if HB111 passes without the amendments which apply to fair competition in the Alaska telecommunications market. ACS is being forced to subsidize GCI by having to lease our network to them below cost and that is driving this company toward bankruptcy. When they take out full page ads saying we want the bill to pass so that we can raise the rates, how many customers do think we'd keep? We only want to be able to raise the rate of the lines we lease to GCI or other CLECs to offset the cost it takes to maintain and improve upon the network we have. If it gets worse, and it will if this bill as amended does not go through, we may be looking at another round of layoffs affecting a significant number of Alaskan families (there's about 1150 of us at this point.) If ACS does go to bankruptcy, that puts the union in jeopardy as well. All labor contracts could go to renegotiation or be thrown out the window completely. As HB111 and the amendments we need to survive come across your desk for consideration please think about the effects this vital piece of legislation will have on the lives, jobs and livelihood of your constituency. I'm all for competition, ACS is even on the record requesting it when we had a majority of the market, it just seems that the cost of doing business should be taken into consideration when the RCA or APUC tells us what the rates have to be. As it is now, the set pricing is not a fair price in ACS employees will have to bear that cost in loss of jobs, income and whatever comes with that. Let's say ACS has a lemonade stand: ACS has built the counter and bought sugar, lemons, cups and even ice. Let's say the total outlay was $5 and we can make 5 gallons so it costs $1 a gallon total. We sell our lemonade for 25 cents a cup. Along comes GCI and they set up a stand nearby and they get the Lemonade Commission to say that ACS has to sell lemons, cups and ice to GCI at a cut rate price so that they too can compete in the lemonade market because apparently, ACS has all the sugar, lemons, cups and ice. So ACS has to sell our materials to GCI for say $2.00 then that leave ACS with $3.00 worth of materials and we're left to compete with GCI and this arrangement while they sell their lemonade for 15 cents a cup. So, we're left with a situation where GCI is both getting their lemonade supplies for way under cost so this gives them low enough overhead to charge less for their lemonade thus swaying customers that don't want to pay 25 cents when they could pay 15 cents so at every step in this process, ACS is making less and less money and it's to the point where ACS can't afford sugar, lemons and cups anymore. Does this really make sense? I just want to conclude by asking that you rate this situation in your mind on scale of fairness from 1 to 10. If it's fair by all means, give it a 10 and vote HB111 as is. If you can see any part of this scenario that places an iota of

doubt that the playing field is level and all is fair in the lemonade market of Alaska then rating a 9 or below should prompt you to vote your conscience and allow HB111 to be amended to provide fair competition in the telecommunications market of Alaska. Otherwise the moral to this story will be "when life gives you lemons, you can't always make lemonade, you have to sell them to another guy so he can make lemonade cheaper than you and put you out of business." Don't let this happen. The futures of too many telecommunication industry workers are in your hands in this matter as well as the integrity of the network and services we help maintain and provide to our communities will dwindle and the negative impact on Alaska's already-enfeebled economy will be felt. I appreciate you taking the time to read this and weigh the fairness of HB111 as written versus the amendments that will allow the industry to grow and allow mutual co-existence between the competing companies and a choice for consumers without giving one company such an over-whelming advantage over the other. Please vote for HB111 with proposed amendments.

Thank you,

N. Keith Anderson

PC Support Technician at ACS

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Subject: HB 111
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 13:45:24 -0400 (EDT)
From: "Pat McGraw" <p.mcgraw@excite.com>

I have worked in Communications my whole life. I find my job security threatened by the unfair competition of GCI. ACS should not be required to subsidize its competition. This truly discourages growth and investment in new technologies. In the last few years I have seen this first hand. If we truly want Alaska to have the best of the new technologies it will take investing in the future. It cannot be done when there is no margin for profit. Please support HB 111 and ALL the critical amendments.

Sincerely,
Neil P. McGraw

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Subject: HB111
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 09:46:03 -0800
From: "Jackie Endsley" <jendsley@Ibew1547.org>
To: <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us>,
<Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.state.ak.us>,
<Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us>, <Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us>,
<Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.state.ak.us>,
<Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us>,
<Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.state.ak.us>

To the Legislature,

I am in favor of House Bill 111 WITH AMENDMENTS. I truly believe there is NOT a level playing field in regard to the competition between ACS and GCI and I believe this bill help to alleviate this problem.

Jackie Endsley
18028 Sanctuary Drive
Eagle River, AK 99577
(907) 694-9109 home
(907) 777-7257 work

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Subject: Please support HB111 and amendments.
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 09:47:45 -0800
From: "Hollenbeck, Steve" <SHollenb@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat
"'Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.sta
"'Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.s

>
>
> *Dear Sir:*
> *The RCA has unfairly given every advantage it can to GCI and that is*
> *breaking the back of ACS. I am sure every consumer could care less if ACS*
> *goes broke just as long as they get cheap dial tone. ACS work force has*
> *been reduced from around 2000 employee's in 1988 to 1125 today and that is*
> *still not enough for ACS to be profitable, (look at the stock price).*
> *That's a lot of good paying jobs lost, tax payers and voters. In this*
> *environment ACS does not have enough money nor has enough personnel to*
> *expand our telephone facilities for new growth, especially with GCI with*
> *their low interconnection fees waiting to take the customer after our*
> *investment has been made. Let's make the playing field level.*
> *As of this time our company has not taken the fight to the public as GCI*
> *has, so I am doing my part for you to understand our needs. Feel free to*
> *contact me if you would like to discuss this issue from an ACS employee*
> *point of view.*
> *Let's make the playing field level, please support HB111 and all it's*
> *critical amendments. Thank You*
>
> *Steve Hollenbeck*
> *OSP Engineer II*
> *ACS communications*
> *tel: 907-459-6474*
> *fax: 907-459-6460*
> *e-mail: shollenb@acsalaska.com*
>
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Subject: HB111 With Amendments
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 09:52:36 -0800
From: "Herman, Victoria" <VHerman@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

I was born and raised in Fairbanks, Alaska. My family has lived and worked in this great State for over sixty years.
I am a single mother raising an eight year old daughter by myself. I currently work in the Telecommunications industry, and I find myself in a situation where my company is not allowed to compete.... my job security, retirement, and my child's future are at stake.

ACS should be allowed to compete by the same rules as GCI. For example, ACS should be allowed to bundle together regulated and unregulated services such as local, long distance, Internet, and Wireless (the cable monopoly- GCI- has been able to do this for over seven years). What we have witnessed through full-page ads, radio spots, Internet sites, and political maneuvering, is an attempt to maintain a structure which requires ACS to subsidize its chief competitor, GCI, the cable monopolist. This subsidy takes root in lease rates that are a mere fraction of the true cost ACS has incurred.

We are not afraid of competition. We are the most highly skilled workforce in the state and we can compete with anyone, just give us a fair playing field. Forcing ACS to subsidize its competitors is not competition. As a voter in your district, I encourage you to represent my family and myself when you cast your vote on this important legislation. Please support HB 111 and all its critical amendments.

<><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><>
Victoria Herman
Alaska Communications Systems
Customer Service
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<<...OLE_Obj...>>
"A people that values its privileges above its principles soon loses both."
- Dwight D. Eisenhower (1890-1969), Inaugural Address, January 20, 1953

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Subject: PLEASE SUPPORT THE HB111 AMENDMENTS
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 09:53:27 -0800
From: "Brown, Tana" <tbrown@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

I AM IN SUPPORT OF THE HB111 AMENDMENTS AND HOPE THAT YOU CAMPAIGN TO HAVE THIS AMENDMENT PASSED. I AM AN ALASKAN VOTER AND RESIDE IN ANCHORAGE. AS A US CITIZEN I BELIEVE IN EQUAL AND FAIR COMPETITION FOR ALL. WITHOUT THIS AMENDMENT BEING PASSED THERE IS NOTHING EQUAL AND FAIR WITH THE WAY THINGS ARE DONE NOW. WHILE GCI IS ABLE TO GIVE $3,000.00 BONUSES TO THEIR EMPLOYEES, ACS IS BEING BEATEN INTO THE GROUND IN EVERY WAY IMAGINABLE.

THANK YOU

TANA BROWN

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Subject: SUPPORT HB111 WITH ALL AMENDMENTS
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 13:55:10 -0400
From: "Karel Shaw" <karel@acsalaska.net>
To: "The Honorable Lesil L. McGuire" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us>

Karel Shaw
2334 Marian Bay Cir
Anchorage, AK 99515

May 15, 2003

The Honorable Lesil L. McGuire
House of Representatives
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative McGuire:

SCENARIO:

I have a first class shoe store called Happy Feet for 80 years.

Federal law says, oh no, you have a monopoly.

You must offer competition, and oh by the way, you need to make room in your store for BOBO Marcus to come in and sell your shoes. They can also buy your shoes at below cost & sell them to the public cheaper.

And oh by the way, if you want to have a sale you need to file for an OK. In the meantime, since BOBO can do what they want (because BOBO needs no OK's from anyone), they've already had the sale and sold at below cost ALL my shoes!!

And oh by the way, they can have access to your cash register & customer data base but you need to pay for the building, the utilities, the buyers and any new inventory.

And oh by the way, BOBO can accelerate their depreciation over 12 years but HAPPY needs to depreciate over 30 years.

LUDICROUS, STUPID, RIDICULOUS you bet it is!!!!!!!!!!!!

But exactly the way RCA treats ACS.

FAIR COMPETITION.....NOT REGULATION

PLEASE SUPPORT HB 111 WITH ALL AMENDMENTS

KAREL SHAW
2334 MARIAN BAY CIR
ANCHORAGE, AK 99515
907-522-5251

Sincerely,

Karel Shaw

Subject: Support HB 111 with amendments
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 10:08:04 -0800
From: "Powell, Justin C." <jpowell@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

I have worked in the Telecommunications industry for several years and I find the current situation to be in a downward spiral. The current regulations attempting to promote competition are destroying the infrastructures they are supposed to be creating. Instead of building new facilities and upgrading services the ILEC, ACS is afraid to spend their capital. There is no guarantee that ACS will ever get a return on their investment if GCI can simply do as they please in leasing these lines at a substantially reduced rate. GCI has even less incentive to invest in the infrastructure if they can make ACS maintain and install all their facilities then simply sit back and collect their money.

To have fair competition both sides should play by the same rules. There is no reason that GCI should get special treatment by the RCA. They continue to badmouth ACS about being a monopoly that only wants to raise rates, while they themselves are the largest monopoly cable provider in Alaska. I'd like to see the RCA regulate cable TV prices and let ACS lease GCI's cable network and see what happens. If GCI truly wants competition and not just a subsidy than lets pass HB 111 with all its essential amendments and let competition begin to work.

Justin Powell
Fairbanks, Alaska
(907)479-1214

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To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Rachael E Herman-Timmons and I'm an ACS Employee. I have been here in Fairbanks, Alaska for 28 years, born and raised. My experience with ACS has been the greatest working experience I have ever had. I'm worried that with the unreasonable control over ACS by the RCA my job security is at stake. I can't see how ACS can survive when other competitors are not paying their fair share to use the network ACS builds and maintains.

When House Bill 111 passes Alaskans will have real competition for the first time. Competition which allows all service providers to offer their "best" deals because all competing companies will be operating under the same set of rules.

As a supporter I ask you to represent my family and myself when you cast your vote on this important legislation. Please support HB 111 and all its vital amendments.

Thank you for your time in this matter.

Rachael E Herman-Timmons
Customer Service Representative

Subject: Please support HB 111 and all of its critical amendments
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 10:23:35 -0800
From: "Rasmussen, Philene M." <PRasmuss@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

I came to ACS in July of 1999. By taking this job I was able continue to live in my home town which I love dearly. Alaska is the kind of State that makes you feel secure and a place that I am proud to raise my family. Before I started working for ACS I had no idea of the kind of competition between the phone companies in Alaska. Or what incumbent and CLEC meant. After working for ACS over the past year I have become very familiar with what goes on behind the scenes that our average customer does not know. GCI might be the CLEC in Alaska, but they are fairly big out side of the Alaska. ACS is owned and ran in Alaska. If you were to look behind our logo you would see a sticker that said made in Alaska. You can't find that in GCI. I hear the question brought up all the time "how can we help Fairbanks and Alaska continue to grow" I have the answer, by having companies such as ACS. ACS is not just a company that only cares about making money, like some of our competitors. ACS is also a tight nit family orientated company. That supports it's employee & offers great benefits. The kind of benefits that help us stay in Alaska which is becoming more and more expensive to live in each year. Please don't get me wrong competition is also good, but only when it's fair. For years ACS has suffered for being the incumbent phone provider. With unfair rulings. This question keep coming up in my head. Why does ACS a company that supports Alaskan jobs & families continue to be punished. I strongly feel if the support for HB 111 and it's amendments don't happen, it will begin to cripple ACS. Is this the kind of statement our Legislator wants to project. That we should all bend over back wards to help companies like GCI and continue to get them the upper hand? What do they really give back to Alaska?? I know that ACS keeps jobs in Alaska which in the long run continues the flow of money back into our State. I truly think that if we don't start making amendments to some of the bills that will allow fair compaction it will jeopardize my job security and other ACS employees. Which in the long run will hurt our children more. I don't want to see that happen. I would like nothing more than to continue to live in Alaska. And know that when my children are grown, they also will have the chance to make Alaska their permanent home. Thank you for your time in reading my email and please truly look at what the cost would be if no amendments were to be made. Alaska can only remain strong if job jobs are available to the people.

Thank you
Philene Rasmussem

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Subject: Please support HB111 with Amended proposal by Tim Anderson
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 10:20:09 -0800
From: gilbertc@acsalaska.net
To: "Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state
CC: "Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us" <Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us>

When Arliss Sturgulewski on a GCI ad., saying about special interest groups. Who are the special interests group here Arliss? Arliss is saying something that most people don't know what she is saying here. GCI don't have to phone cable lines and they are paying less than other for the use of that cable.

ACS has to share its products and services with competing companies like GCI, and this will encourage companies like ACS to spend on capital projects to improve advanced deployment of advanced telecommunications equipment to service Alaskans. This actually discourages companies like ACS to invest on NEW advanced telecommunications equipment to service Alaskans because ACS would have to share this NEW technology with competing companies like GCI, AT&T and TelAlaska and ACS would not a good return on their investment. Companies like GCI, do not have to invest on any capital projects and advanced telecommunications equipment to service Alaskans because they can get it from ACS for below cost. So why should ACS invest on anything. Your in business to make money, not share investments. Who ends up suffering? We Alaskans, the public.

Please support HB111 with Amended proposal by Tim Anderson

Gilbert Carrillo
8301 Majestic Dr
Anchorage, Ak 99504

Subject: HB111 and SB72
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 10:37:23 -0800
From: "Starett, Cindy" <CSTARETT@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat
"'Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.sta
"'Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.sta
"'Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.s

I have worked in the Telecommunications industry for several years and I find myself in a situation where my company is not allowed to compete.... my job security, retirement, and my children's future are at stake. Please support HB 111 and SB 72 and all its critical amendments.

ACS should be allowed to compete by the same rules as GCI. For example, ACS should be allowed to bundle together regulated and unregulated services such as local, long distance, Internet and Wireless (the cable monopoly- GCI- has been able to do this for over seven years). What we have witnessed through full-page ads, radio spots, Internet sites, and political maneuvering is an attempt to maintain a structure, which requires ACS to subsidize its chief competitor, GCI, the cable monopolist. This subsidy takes root in lease rates that are a mere fraction of the true cost ACS has incurred. Would ACS raise its Local and/or Business Customer Rates by $100 million annually? Of course not. Such action by ACS would drive customers to the competition. ACS would raise its interconnection fees so that GCI was paying a compensatory rate for use of the ACS Network. This is competition at work.

When House Bill 111 as amended passes, Alaskan telecommunications consumers will have real competition for the first time. Competition which allows all service providers to offer their "best" deals because all the competing companies will be operating under the same set of rules on a level playing field.

Forcing ACS to subsidize its competitors is not competition. Please vote to support HB 111 and all its critical amendments.

Cindy Starett
1918 North Salem Loop
Anchorage Alaska 99508
907-561-8539

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Subject: HB111 and SB72
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 10:37:23 -0800
From: "Starett, Cindy" <CSTARETT@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat
"'Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.sta
"'Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.sta
"'Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.s

I have worked in the Telecommunications industry for several years and I find myself in a situation where my company is not allowed to compete.... my job security, retirement, and my children's future are at stake. Please support HB 111 and SB 72 and all its critical amendments.

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Subject: AMENDMENT HB-111
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 10:38:57 -0800
From: "Walton, Vanessa" <VWalton@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

I'm asking you to back this amendment. I am an employee of ACS and if this fails alot of people could be out of jobs. I am a long time Alaskan, single parent. Thank you for your consideration.

Thanks
Vanessa Walton

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Subject: HB 111 (WITH AMENDMENTS)
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 10:40:15 -0800
From: "Liebe, Brooke E" <Bliebe@acsalaska.com>
To: "'representative_lesil_mcguire@legis.state.ak.us'" <representative_lesil_mcguire@legis.state.ak.u

May 15, 2003

Dear House Representative Lesil McGuire,

I have been an employee of ACS for 2 years now, I am 22 years old and I plan to stay with this company until I am able to retire. If you do the calculations you will clearly see that I still have many, many years ahead of me before that day will come. Unfortunately my dreams of having job security, a retirement to look forward to and an income to support my family are all at stake right now because the company that I work for is not being opted a fair chance to compete. Please support HB 111 with amendments.

It is impossible for ACS to survive as a company when GCI is operating under a completely different set of rules. ACS cannot compete with a company that is able to bundle together regulated and unregulated services thus offering lower prices to their customers. Due to this, ACS customers are none other than driven to the competition for this very reason. All that ACS asks is that GCI pay a compensated rate for use of the ACS network. This would be equal competition to both companies.

When House Bill 111 as amended passes, the consumers of ACS will finally have real competition for the first time. Competition which allows all service providers to offer their "best" deals because all the competing companies will be in operation under the same set of rules on a level playing field.

I am a registered voter here in Alaska and I strongly urge you to represent my family and myself when you cast your vote on this so very important legislation.
Forcing ACS to subsidize its competitors is not competition. Please support HB 111 and all its critical amendments.

Sincerely,

Brooke E. Liebe

bliebe@acsalaska.com

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Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 10:40:15 -0800
From: "Liebe, Brooke E" <Bliebe@acsalaska.com>
To: "'representative_lesil_mcguire@legis.state.ak.us'" <representative_lesil_mcguire@legis.state.ak.u

May 15, 2003

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When House Bill 111 as amended passes, the consumers of ACS will finally have real competition for the first time. Competition which allows all service providers to offer their "best" deals because all the competing companies will be in operation under the same set of rules on a level playing field.

I am a registered voter here in Alaska and I strongly urge you to represent my family and myself when you cast your vote on this so very important legislation.
Forcing ACS to subsidize its competitors is not competition. Please support HB 111 and all its critical amendments.

Sincerely,

Brooke E. Liebe

bliebe@acsalaska.com

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Subject: HB111
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 10:41:02 -0800
From: "Lewis, Lori" <Lori.Lewis@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

I have worked in the Telecommunications industry for many years and I find myself in a situation where my company is not allowed to compete.... my job security, retirement, and my children's future are at stake. ACS should be allowed to compete by the same rules as GCI. For example, ACS should be allowed to bundle together regulated and unregulated services such as local, long distance, Internet and Wireless. GCI- has been able to do this for over seven years.

When House Bill 111 as amended passes, Alaskan telecommunications consumers will have real competition for the first time. Competition which allows all service providers to offer their "best" deals because all the competing companies will be operating under the same set of rules on a level playing field.

Forcing ACS to subsidize its competitors is not competition. Please vote to support HB 111 and all its critical amendments.

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Subject: HB111 with amendments
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 10:40:41 -0800
From: "Inskeep, Sherry" <sinskeep@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

I have worked in the Telecommunications industry for many years and I find myself in a situation where my company is not allowed to compete.... my job security, retirement, and my children's future are at stake. Please support HB 111 and all its critical amendments.

ACS should be allowed to compete by the same rules as GCI. For example, ACS should be allowed to bundle together regulated and unregulated services such as local, long distance, Internet and Wireless (the cable monopoly- GCI- has been able to do this for over seven years). I encourage you to support HB 111 and all its critical amendments.

What we have witnessed through full-page ads, radio spots, Internet sites, and political maneuvering is an attempt to maintain a structure, which requires ACS to subsidize its chief competitor, GCI, the cable monopolist. This subsidy takes root in lease rates that are a mere fraction of the true cost ACS has incurred. I encourage you to support HB 111 and all its critical amendments.

Would ACS raise its Local and/or Business Customer Rates by $100 million annually? Of course not. Such action by ACS would drive customers to the competition. ACS would raise its interconnection fees so that GCI was paying a compensatory rate for use of the ACS Network. This is competition at work.

When House Bill 111 as amended passes, Alaskan telecommunications consumers will have real competition for the first time. Competition which allows all service providers to offer their "best" deals because all the competing companies will be operating under the same set of rules on a level playing field.

Thank you very much for your time
Sherry Inskeep

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Subject: HB 111 WITH AMENDMENTS
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 10:47:49 -0800
From: "Reese, Donna" <DReese@acsalaska.com>

Please SUPPORT HB 111 WITH AMENDMENTS.

I encourage you to represent me, my family, and my friends when you cast your vote on HB111. I urge you to SUPPORT HB111 along with the original critical amendments.

I am for FAIR competition for Alaska telecommunications companies; however feel very strongly that ACS has not received this fair treatment by the RCA. I have worked in the telecommunications industry for the past 13 years and have seen many changes, both good and bad. One of the saddest most unfair change I have watched materialize over the past years are the unfair rulings by the RCA which regulates stringent restrictive rulings over ACS but not to GCI. Thus, ACS has been seriously handicapped in being able to compete and offer our customers more competitive services and prices which GCI continues to be able to enjoy, and to offer our local communities.

In the past years, ACS staff, our families, and our friends have witnessed through full-page ads, radio spots, internet sites, and political arenas an attempt to maintain a structure, which requires ACS to subsidize its chief competitor... GCI. GCI who truly is the cable monopolist. This subsidy takes root in lease rates that are a mere fraction of the true cost that ACS has incurred.

Again, I urge you to SUPPORT HB111 along WITH AMENDMENTS. By doing so, you will be supporting hundreds of local Alaskans and their families by not only helping to guarantee our job security, but also by truly allowing for fair competition within Alaska. Thank you for your support.

Donna Reese
2297 Outside Blvd.
North Pole, Alaska 99705
907-488-3721 HM
907-459-6461 WK
>
>
>
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Subject: support HB111 with amendments
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 10:45:52 -0800
From: "Merry, Heather" <Heather.Merry@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

As a worker in the telecommunications industry, I am concerned with the issue of the RCA and the possibility of not passing HB111 with amendments. When ACS is required to lease its facilities at a fraction of the cost to maintain them, competition does not exist. When the RCA requires ACS to build new facilities to maintain GCI lines, how can ACS compete? The cost is falling on ACS, rather than the users of the facilities, GCI. ACS should be allowed to compete and function by the same rules as GCI. When House Bill 111 as amended passes, Alaskan telecommunications consumers will have real competition for the first time. Competition which allows all service providers to offer their "best" deals because all the competing companies will be operating under the same set of rules on a level playing field. For the sake of jobs, work ethics, and industry competition (if the RCA would allow fair competition) the Alaskan industry could only benefit from passing HB111 and all of its amendments.
My family's livelihood depends on passing HB111 with amendments as written. My husband and I are both in the telecommunications industry and if the bill does not pass, it could affect our well being drastically.
Forcing ACS to subsidize its competitors is not competition.
I encourage you to represent my family and myself when you cast your vote on this important legislation. Please support HB111 and all its critical amendments.

Heather Merry
Alaska Communications Systems
600 Telephone Ave
Anchorage, AK 99503
hmerry@acsalaska.com
907-564-1001
907-564-1678 fax

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Subject: HB111 with Amendments
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 10:59:05 -0800
From: "Morris, Dennis L" <DMORRIS@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

I have lived in Alaska for 44 years and have been in the telecommunications industry for over 28 years and would like to take a little of your time to let you know how I feel about HB111. I would like to let you know that I believe this bill with all the existing amendments is crucial for this state to build a modern and viable telecommunications network. GCI has been treated like something special since the day they started to compete with Alascom in the long distance market. We need to have fair competition, not one company making its profits to the determent of another. GCI is attempting to put a spin on this in the newspaper and radio that we shouldn't bow to last minute "special interest" amendments. GCI and their push to kill the amendments is to only real "special interest" in this mess and confirms this with the untold thousands of dollars spent on their add campaigns. GCI is the only monopoly left in this state with their cable company.

The ILEC is only asking to be given the same rules that GCI is working under. Some examples are:

1. GCI is able to depreciate their investment over 12 years; ACS is forced to use 30 years.
2. GCI can bundle all of their services together any way they want, ACS can not bundle regulated and deregulated items and need to get a tariff approved which GCI usually fights.
3. When GCI gets a line they are allowed to get the REA subsidy when they do nothing in the way of installing or maintaining cable facilities to serve the customer. This is sure way to destroy to benefits of universal service in areas of high cost.

I appreciate your time and I and my family who's livelihood depends on the outcome of this bill will be watching how this bill progresses.

Thanks for your time,

Dennis Morris
Alaska Communication Systems
Acting SWC Foreman
907-564-1906

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Subject: FW: HB 111
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 11:07:26 -0800
From: "Rossback, Jewell G." <JRossbac@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

> *My husband and I have been employed by ATU, PTI and ACS for at least*
> *25 years. Being in the communication business for this many years, we*
> *have seen so many changes, some that are healthy and some that are not.*
>
> *We believe that ACS should be allowed to compete by the same rules*
> *as GCI. For example, ACS should be allowed to bundle together regulated*
> *and unregulated services such as local, long distance, Internet and*
> *Wireless. GCI has been doing this for many years.*
> *Everywhere we turn, the news media is always against the incumbent.*
> *They help fuel the communications problems. Where is it fair that we*
> *should lease our equipment to GCI and they not have to pay what it costs*
> *to support it? Is it that our Representatives want to see the failure of*
> *competition or bankrupt one company where there will be no competition*
> *anymore??*
> *When House Bill 111 as amended passes, there will be real*
> *competition for the first time. This will allow service providers to*
> *offer their best deals because all the competing companies will be*
> *operating under the same set of rules.*
> *As a voter in Alaska for almost 30 years, I encourage you to vote in*
> *support of the House Bill 111.*
>
> *Thank You*
> *Bill and Jewell Rossback*
>
>
>
>

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Subject: HB111, with amendments
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 11:06:12 -0800
From: "Gamash, Pam" <pgamash@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

I am an ACS employee who witnesses on a daily basis the negative impact to customers caused by the one sided regulation of phone service in Alaska. A situation being called "competition" by GCI is in fact has tied the hands of ACS. Current regulations force ACS to lease lines to GCI at a rate that is below the cost of maintaining the lines. There may have been a time when keeping the ACS giant in check seemed necessary, but that time has passed. ACS has lost 50% of the market share. The current situation also supports regulations that prohibit ACS from offering efficient customer service. Customers who wish to purchase ACS services must be passed to several departments because of guidelines set forth by the RCA. Customers who call GCI for these same services can speak to one person to receive several services with the blessing of the RCA. ACS represenatives are not allowed to even speak about certain ACS products. This gives the impression to the general public that dealing with ACS is painstaking process. If the situation remains as it is today it is only a matter of time before ACS itself is a thing of the past. If ACS, the company that supports GCI & AT&T fails....then what will Alaskans do for phone service. Please level the playing field & help untie the hands of Alaskan Communications Systems, I urge you to vote yes on HB111, with amendments.

Pam Gamash

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Subject: HB111
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 12:13:07 -0700 (PDT)
From: "Gerald S. and A. Linda Beyer" <gbeyer@rocketmail.com>
To: Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us

Dear Ms McGuire:<?xml:namespace prefix = o ns = "urn:schemas-microsoft-com:office:office" />

Thank you for taking the time to read my e-mail. I would ask you to consider supporting HB111 with the amendments, rather than without.

I am an ACS employee, and have watched the RCA (APUC) rule consistently favor of GCI over the past ten years. There is at least one staff member who is a former ATU employee that bears ACS serious ill will, regardless of the merit of cases before them, and it's important to both competition and to fairness that the commission not be allowed to ajudicate w/o legislative review.

Trying not to be inflammatory, GCI has attained it's current market position by raising local cable rates (where they have the monopoly), and also by being subsidized by ACS' being forced to sell them core services well under our actual costs.

I believe that if the RCA persists in their historical approach, you will see the end of ACS.

I hope you will consider my concerns when your vote comes due.

cordially,

Gerald Beyer

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The New Yahoo! Search - Faster. Easier. Bingo.

Subject: HB111
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 11:21:58 -0800
From: "Robinson, L (Scott)" <LRobinso@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

Good Morning,,,I have worked in the Telephone Industry in our great state of Alaska since 1974.I have seen many,many changes.Deregulation was a major change.Since then the consumer has been the one to pay.I feel compitition is very important,especially when it is on a fair playing field.I feel ACS should not have to subsidize GCI .This subsidy takes root in lease rates that are a mere fraction of the true cost that ACS has incurred.Please support HB111 and all of its critical amendments.... Thank you very much for your time Scott Robinson

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Subject: FW: Pass House Bill 111 Including Amendments
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 11:30:27 -0800
From: "Dale, Kathy" <KDALE@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

> *-----Original Message-----*
> *From: Dale, Kathy*
> *Sent: Thursday, May 15, 2003 11:20 AM*
> *To: 'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.as.us';*
> *'Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.state.ak.us';*
> *'Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us';*
> *'Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us';*
> *'Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.state.ak.us';*
> *'Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us';*
> *'Representative_Max_Gurenberg@legis.state.ak.us'*
> *Cc: 'kdale@acsalaska.net'*
> *Subject: Pass House Bill 111 Including Amendments*
>
> *I have been an employee in the telecommunications industry in Alaska since*
>
> *1989. I came into this industry when the model for public services was a*
> *monopoly. I am still here where the model for telecommunications is*
> *supposed to be competition. However, that is not the model that is*
> *operating. The incumbent local exchange carrier (ILEC) is treated as a*
> *monopoly and regulated by the RCA. The competitive local exchange carrier*
>
> *(CLEC) is allowed to set its rates with out filing rate cases, can bundle*
> *regulated and deregulated services and purchase regulated lines from the*
> *ILEC at $10 less per month than it costs to maintain that line. I don't*
> *think the ILECs in Alaska are afraid of competition, but GCI most*
> *certainly is. GCI is spending a tremendous amount of money to keep the*
> *ILECs regulated. Ask yourself why? Support HB 111 including amendments*
> *and give the citizens of Alaska true telecommunications competition.*
>
> *Thank you in advance for your support in this effort. kd*
>
>
>

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Subject: HB111
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 11:30:42 -0800
From: "Hanley, Abigail" <Abigail.Hanley@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

Representative McGuire:

I have lived my entire life here in Alaska, and I had planned on staying here. However the Regulatory Commission of Alaska is now threatening my job security, retirement, and my future here in Alaska. Please support HB 111 with all of its critical amendments. I am very proud to be an ACS employee, and I want our company to survive. ACS treats it's employees and customers with great care and consideration. I find GCI's business practices despicable and yet they seem to be rewarded for being underhanded. Having been a cable customer (out of necessity not by choice) I have seen my rates get raised over and over again..... Where is the government when they do this?

ACS should be allowed to compete by the same rules as GCI. For example, ACS should be allowed to bundle together regulated and unregulated services such as local, long distance, Internet and Wireless. I have been fortunate enough to work in all of these departments and I have seen firsthand the way that our hands are tied. In order to set up a customer with Local, Long Distance, and Internet the customer has to be transferred to at least three separate departments. However if they call GCI, one rep is able to help with everything. How is this fair competition? I ask again that you support HB 111 with all of its critical amendments.

Thank you,
Abigail Hanley

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Subject: HB 111
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 11:32:26 -0800
From: "Simpson, William (Bill)" <wsimpson@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

I urge you to vote for HB 111

WITH the amendments added by the House Rules Committee.

William L. Simpson

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Subject: HB 111 with Amendments
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 11:33:58 -0800
From: "Olson, Kirsten" <Kirsten.Olson@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

Dear Ms McGuire,

> *I am writing you in regards to the HB 111 that is currently in debate. I think it is essential to both my own personal future, and the future of the telecommunications field in Alaska, that the HB 111 gets passed with all it's critical amendments. ACS should be allowed to complete by the same rules as GCI. I find myself in a situation where my job is at risk. If the RCA is allowed to continue as is, without the necessary amendments, I will not have a job in a few years. It is so vitally important to have the HB 111 as amended passed. Competition in Alaska has far surpassed what was originally intended with Telecommunications Act of 1996, and there is no need for the status quo to continue as is. I feel confident in saying that with the passage of the amended HB 111 that it will make the telecommunications industry even stronger in Alaska by making it a fairer market.*
>
> *I am very concerned about my job and my livelihood. I encourage you to represent my family and myself when you cast your vote on this important piece of legislation. Please support HB 111 and all it's critical amendments.*
>
> *Respectfully,*
>
> *Kirsten M. Olson*
>
>

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Subject: HB111 & SB72
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 11:34:01 -0800
From: "Wilcox, Debbie" <dwilcox@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

PLEASE VOTE TO SUPPORT HB111 & SB72 WITH ALL OF THE AMENDMENTS !

When House Bill 111 as amended passes, Alaskan telecommunications consumers will have real competition for the first time. Competition which allows all service providers to offer their "best" deals because all the competing companies will be operating under the same set of rules on a level playing field.

Forcing ACS to subsidize its competitors is not competition.

Sincerely,

Debbie Wilcox
P. O. Box 241493
Anchorage, Ak. 99524

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Subject: HB 111 as amended
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 11:34:35 -0800
From: "Brown, Philip C." <PBrown@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.st
"'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat
"'Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.sta
"'Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us>

I am a testboardman for ACS, and have worked for GCI in the past. It would be fair to say that your action on the HB 111 will have a significant impact on my livelihood. I have seen the devastating effects of the actions of the RCA over the past few years on the financial well-being of my employer. Please enact this legislation with its amendments, in order to bring some sense back into the telecommunications industry in Alaska. Without these amendments, the current inequities are sure to do far-reaching and irreversible damage to not only ACS, but to Alaskan consumers as well.

Thank you for voting to ensure that telecom competition in Alaska benefits consumers as much as it has GCI over the past three years.

Phil Brown
Testdeskman
(907)564-1804
(907)561-0303 Fax

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May 13, 2003

Dear Kevin Meyer,

I understand that HB 111 is in danger of being stripped of all its amendments. I am writing to ask that you work to pass HB 111 with all of its amendments intact. This is crucial because if HB 111 passes with out these amendments my job security & retirement are in jeopardy.

Respectfully,

Laurie Mack
6860 O'Malley
Anchorage, AK 99507

Subject: Support HB 111 WITH AMENDMENTS!!!!
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 12:09:29 -0800
From: "Wendy Eggleston" <laren.eggleston@acsalaska.net>
To: <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us>

I believe that we need fare competion in the telecommunications field. I believe that ACS formally ATU/PTI has suffered long enough. GCI had the better part
of the Market share with going into new territories. I feel that isn't about time that GCI pays their fare share on the rates instead of getting the cream of the crop. I believe that the RCA should treat everyone as equals in the telecommunication field, Instead of giving provisions to the ones that they favor. Why should ACS customers suffer all the impact on the rates and pay more while GCI is getting a sweet deal that the RCA will not change??? They shouldn't. We all should be equal.

Thank you
Wendy Eggleston

Subject: HB 111
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 12:16:18 -0800
From: "Penny" <penny@alaska.net>
To: <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us>

I support HB 111 with amendments. My job at ACS, my career, my family's well being are at stake.

Thank you.

Penny Straka

Subject: Support HB 111
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 12:28:53 -0800
From: "The Helvies" <helvies@acsalaska.net>
To: <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us>,
<Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.state.ak.us>,
<Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us>, <Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us>,
<Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.state.ak.us>,
<Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us>,
<Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.state.ak.us>

Please support HB 111 and all its critical amendments.

ACS should be allowed to compete by the same rules as GCI.

What we have witnessed through full-page ads, radio spots, Internet sites, and political maneuvering is an attempt to maintain . structure, which requires ACS to subsidize its chief competitor, GCI, the cable monopolist. This subsidy takes root in lease rates that are a mere fraction of the true cost ACS has incurred. I encourage you to support HB 111 and all its critical amendments.

I have been to GCI's web site for "Fair Competition" and was dissapointed to see GCI trying to make ACS and AT&T out as the "Bad Guys. Forcing ACS to subsidize its competitors is not competition. Please vote for what is right.

I have attached a link to the Illinoise State Legislater to let you see how they have delt with this issue.
http://www.legis.state.il.us/legislation/publicacts/fulltext.asp?Name=093-0005

Sincerely,

Roger Helvie

Subject: House Approves Nurse Incentive Program
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 12:36:59 -0800
From: J D Wallace <JD_Wallace@Legis.state.ak.us>
Organization: Alaska State Legislature
To: lhscjdw+housemajlegs@legis.state.ak.us

Representative Peggy Wilson
District 2

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 15, 2003
CONTACT: J.D. Wallace, House Majority Press Secretary (907) 465-5369

House Approves Nurse Incentive Program

Debt Relief Will Help Bring More Nurses to the State

(Juneau)—The Alaska House of Representatives unanimously approved HB 211 by a vote of 37 to zero on Thursday. Sponsored by House Health, Education, and Social Services Committee Chair Rep. Peggy Wilson (R-Wrangell), HB 211 establishes the Alaska Nurse Recruitment Loan Repayment Program as an incentive to attract new nurses to the state and encourage Alaskans to pursue nursing vocations in Alaska. The program offers up to $2,000 per year, not to exceed $10,000 to repay nursing loans.

"Lightening a nurse's loan repayment burden by even this modest amount should help attract more nurses to Alaska, and encourage Alaskans who are training to be nurses to stay here," Representative Wilson said.

In 2002, the Alaska Colleagues in Caring, in collaboration with the Alaska Hospital and Nursing Home Association, surveyed the need for more nurses in Alaska healthcare facilities. Results showed that vacancy rates for RNs had increased from 5.7% in 2000 to 11.5% in 2002, with more increases projected for the future. Facilities in western and northern Alaska reported a vacancy rate of more than 20%.

The Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development projects that the state will need 4100 more nurses in the next seven years, almost double the current demand. The University of Alaska and health care institutions in the state are cooperating to expand in state nursing education opportunities, and aim to double the number of nursing graduates by 2006. Wilson, who is also a nurse, said that Alaska cannot afford to wait any longer to provide financial incentives to bring more nurses to Alaska.

"The quality of our health care is clearly in danger because of this shortage, and our health care facilities are spending millions of dollars to hire visiting nurses," Wilson said. "Our hospitals could spend those funds much more effectively on nurses who are committed to staying in Alaska communities."

HB 211 moves to the Senate.

###

Subject: Amended HB111
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 12:40:00 -0800
From: "Mathews, Ronald D." <RMathews@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

Dear Representative,

My name is Ron Mathews, I have lived in Alaska for 46 yrs, born in Sitka and now living in Juneau. I am not a politically minded person nor have I ever written any of my political resources. I think it is time with the upcoming HB111. I believe very much in competition in the work place, and being a business owner I thrive on the opportunity to provide a better service than my competitors. What is happening between GCI and the local Telephone Co. has got nothing to do with fair competition, and being a Country that is providing a free equal environment for the 3rd world countries, it is deplorable to see what out government is allowing to take place right here in Alaska. I have a high respect for our political structure and the people who man the post. I guess what I really want to say here is that you, our people in office have an obligation before God almighty and than to the people you serve, to do what is right. I have read the ads in the Newspaper and heard the ads on the radio that GCI is putting out. I know the general public might not what is true or false, but you our Government does. Fair business would be for GCI to use its own Cable plant and sell its own service, and the local Telephone Co use its own Cable plant to sell its service. And the rules for the one have to be the same as the rules for the second. PLEASE DO NOT ALLOW THE AMENDMENTS BE STRIPPED OFF HB111 We so need an honest government

Thank you for listening

Ron Mathew

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Subject: Please support HB 111 and all its critical amendments.
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 12:18:29 -0800
From: "Dykman, Michelle K." <mdykman@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

Dear Committee:

I thank you for taking the time to read my letter, however I have to tell you, I have never taken the time to sit down and write to any politician. Like most people, I always thought it fell on deaf ears. But this time is different because it is in my back yard as they say.
So I am writing to you today in regards to the HB 111 W/ AMENDMENTS.
I am not just a voting constituent, but more importantly I am a CONSUMER. And as a consumer I want to see fair competition and lower rates. (And in case know one knows it.... you don't get lower rates without competition)
So as a voter in your district, I encourage you to represent my family and myself when you cast your vote on this important legislation. Please support HB 111 and all its critical amendments.
What is the harm in allowing peoples voices to be heard over all the negative yammering from GCI. Which is another thing that really bother's me, the ads that GCI are allowed to air. They continue to bombard the airways with constant negative slanderous accusations of ACS, It pains me to have to explain these GCI ads to my 11 year old son when he ask's me what they are talking about. Especially when we as parents are trying to teach our children to be FAIR, MORAL & ETHICAL in their responsibilities to the community they live in.
(In case any of you have forgotten people learn by example.)

Another thing I don't understand is... If the Regulatory Commission was established to protect ME the consumer.... Then where were they when GCI raised cable rates several times & then went even further to FORCE consumer's to take their higher priced digital cable Service? This is what happened to my family when one of our cable box's went on the blip & GCI came out to fix it, I was forced to take their over priced digital cable service there was no other option's available to me. I think this kind of monopoly is outrageous, But I guess I should not worry since I do have the RCA to watch out for ME! This experience has once again sent the message that there is some kind of hidden agenda that the RCA must be trying to achieve.

I think competition is GREAT ... and absolutely necessary for our community to continue to grow.

If the general public would actually take the time to find out the facts surrounding the phone wars, any sane person would see that GCI is getting more than their fair share of the market at the high exorbitant cost to ACS. By leasing there facility's at 1/2 the cost.
I'm not sure but I think they have a name for people like that ... Swindler's?

So once again I would like to reiterate my strong feelings towards this issue. And since every problem has to have a solution & every solution has to have a starting place then start by leveling the playing field for fair competition and allow the consumer's to make a more educated choice as to which company they want to provide there service to them.

Thanks for listening.....

Sincerely,

Michelle Dykman
Wk # 564-1730

Please support HB 111 and all its critical amendments.

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Subject: Support HB111 WITH Amendments
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 12:57:25 -0800
From: "Colp, Larry D." <lcolp@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat
"'Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.sta
"'Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.sta
"'Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.s
CC: "'Representative_John_Coghill@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_John_Coghill@legis.state.ak
"'Representative_Hugh_Fate@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Hugh_Fate@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Jim_Whitaker@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Jim_Whitaker@legis.state.a

Dear Honorable Representatives

Competition is fine as long as the playing field is level, which it presently is not.

It is like an auto dealership on best corner of the city established years ago. It is forced to lease show lot and service garage portion (until up to 30-40% of market) at a cost basis of averaged since dealership begun. The competition is then allowed to pass fliers out just outside gate encouraging use of competitive portion only. Leasing includes all except billing and collection since database of parts used by each customer still must be maintained with just note that it belongs to competition. When expansion is needed, it is required to be done and is accomplished but then competition gets to use added at previous lease value even if newest cost is 10 times original. This is not fair competition since competitor does not have to build similar or better to get customer. Let us use depreciation tables of FCC or Tax Code of economic life, not RCA mandated potential possible facility life.

I have heard of those building a new house being told to sign up with ACS and after the drop plowed into house and connected for a month to switch to GCI. Capital recovery at historic average.

What irked me the most to hear is that RCA commissioner during a hearing asked GCI what would be reasonable increase and the off-handed verbal response "just happened" to be very close to the result. By cost basis?

Losses to aid a competitor by sales below cost make sure that there is no money for capital additions for new features desired nor expansion to new subdivisions/business construction. From my perspective already there is not enough money for even basic infrastructure replacements before service loss. Further erosion will make the original establishing business bankrupt, which in this case will also kill the services of the competitor-without-infrastructure.

I am a non-management employee of ACS which is about ready to retire so am not trying to support my job. I just see the present RCA mandates to be wrong. I have been a member of the Republican State Central Committee.

I urge you to support HB111 WITH Amendments as best way to support citizen oversight while allowing proper cost recovery to provide services expected by citizens.

Thank you for your representation.

Larry Colp
456-5863r, 459-6285w

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Subject: HB 111
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 13:02:42 -0800
From: "Congleton, Bruce M." <BConglet@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

As an ACS employee, I feel that the rules that we must comply with should also be followed by GCI. Being that this is not the case, the result on our part is large loss of revenue due to an unfair advantage. GCI in turn uses this to their advantage as a means of discrediting our company.

I am a very strong believer in the free enterprise system. Competition between businesses should follow the same guidelines as all other forms of competion, meaning that the same rules should apply to both sides.

Please vote to support HB 111 with amendments.

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Subject: HB111 with Amendments
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 17:10:49 -0400
From: "Mary Hughes" <MHughes@acsalaska.com>
To: "The Honorable Lesil L. McGuire" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us>

Mary Hughes
9742 Reliance dr
Anchorage, AK 99507

May 15, 2003

The Honorable Lesil L. McGuire
House of Representatives
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative McGuire:

I am asking for your support on HB 111 with amendments. The competition doesn't have to follow the same rules as ACS. ACS should be allowed to charge the true cost for their facilities and the depreciation rate should be the same for all the telecommunication companies. ACS should be able to offer all their services & product to the customer with one phone call. The rules should be the same for every one. I am asking that you support HB111 with amendments so the rules are the same for everyone

Sincerely,

Mary E. Hughes

Subject: Bill # HB111
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 13:13:59 -0800
From: "Aldrich, Sunny" <sunny.aldrich@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat
"'Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.sta
"'Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.sta
"'Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.s

To whom it may concern:

I am very concerned about the outcome of bill HB111 with ammendments, and am writing to encourage you to support it. I have lived and worked in Alaska my entire life, and I feel that any attack on the infrastructure of our local and rural phone systems is a disservice to Alaskans. It is clear to me that the recent ad campaign and actions taken by GCI is intended to mislead the public so that they can continue to hold an unfair advantage over ACS and damage our ability to service the public. If the legislation is not passed that will allow ACS to charge our resellers what it COSTS us to offer subscriber lines, we will not be able to invest in new services for Alaskans. GCI now has a large enough market share for the telecommunications market here to be considered competitive. Therefore there is no reason to further limit our ability to do business. GCI's efforts to counter this legislation are self serving and will hurt Alaskans in the long run.

This isn't just about the future of me and my family. This is about the future of telecommunications in Alaska. Who would it serve for ACS to continue to sell lines under cost until we can no longer afford to do business? If we're out of business, so are our resellers. In the process, the infrastructure suffers from lack of resources to maintain it and the cost to recover from the damage would be staggering. That scenario benefits no one but GCI.

ACS is run in Alaska by Alaskans. Our ability to do business in this state affects thousands of jobs statewide. We should be allowed to compete fairly with GCI in order to keep our business healthy and to offer the best services and newest technology to Alaskans. The ACS companies pioneered service in Alaska and in the Wireless and long distance markets offer the only real local competition to out-of-state businesses like AT&T and GCI. Our financial future affects all Alaskans and the services that are offered to them. We're the only local choice in many markets for many Alaskans.

Please support Alaskan jobs and businesses by leveling the playing field and allowing us to business the way it's intended to be done - fairly.

Sincerely,

Sunny Aldrich

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speak with the message sender. In addition, please immediately delete this message and all attachments. Thank you.

May 15, 2003

Dear Honorable Representatives,

My name is Stacie Byrns. I am a single mother and I work for Alaska Communications Systems. I am writing to you in hopes that you will support HB 111 WITH all amendments attached.

The reason that I am asking you to support this bill is not only because I work for Alaska Communications Systems (ACS), but also because without fair competition in the Telecommunications Area the customer (YOU and I) become caught in the middle. When there is a fair and equal competition field then WE come out on top.

I have always prided myself on being fair and just to everyone no matter what the situation as such when I see a full-page ad or hear a radio spot that is filled with untruths then I get upset. This political maneuvering is nothing more then an attempt to maintain a structure, which requires ACS to subsidize its chief competitor, GCI. This subsidy takes root in lease rates that are a mere fraction of the true cost ACS has incurred.

Why would ACS raise it Local and/or Business Customer Rates by $100 million annually? Don't you think that this is a little opperserd? That would only encourage our customers to turn to GCI for service. ACS would raise its interconnect fees so that GCI was paying a compensatory rate for the use of the ACS Network. This to me would be a fair playing field.

When House Bill 111 as amended passes, then Alaskan telecommunications consumers will have real competition for the first time. Competition which allows all service providers to offer their "BEST" deals because all the competing companies will be operating under the same set of rules on a level playing field.

Thank you for voting FOR HB 111 WITH all amendments.

Sincerely,
Stacie Byrns
Sr. Clerical Specialist
Alaska Communications Systems
564-1929 work

Subject: FW: will you proof this.
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 13:48:04 -0800
From: "Fifield, Donese L." <dfifield@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat
"'Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.state.ak.u
"'Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.sta
"'Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Pete_Kott@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Pete_Kott@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Ethan_Berkowitz@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Ethan_Berkowitz@legis
CC: "'Lt_Governor@gov.state.sk.us'" <Lt_Governor@gov.state.sk.us>

> *My name is Donese Fifield. I have lived in Alaska since I was 1*
> *years old (1971). I have 2 wonderful boys and a wonderful husband. My*
> *mother has also worked in the Telecommunications industry for 16 years at*
> *Alascom, and I have worked in the Telecommunications industry for six*
> *years. I am proud to have "Telephony" a part of my family , and who knows*
> *maybe my son's will grow up to be a line man, or Engineer in the same*
> *industry If given the chance only If the industry's integrity can be*
> *saved.*

I see a situation where my company is not allowed compete on a equal and level playing field. Every day I process orders for a competitor that receives a substantial discount and munipulates an agreement that we (ACS) entered into in good faith to be in compliance with the Telecommunications Act. Our hands are tied and frankly this competitor doesn't even come close to being able to pay my wages for the service/s I/we provide for them routinely and on a daily basis. It is beyond frustrating and I hate to sound biased, I really do want to see far competition.

> *My job security, retirement, and my children's future are at stake*
> *here as well as the integrity of the Telecommunications Industry.*
> *Please support HB 111 and all amendments. As a voter in your district, I*
> *encourage you to represent my family and myself when you cast your vote on*
> *this important legislation.*
> *My fellow employees and I have run across a very peculiar concept*
> *UNE=Unbundled Network Element, this simple concept has so many definitions*
> *because the RCA is allowed to make up things as they go here in Alaska.*
> *There is no standard in the Telecommunications Industry regarding this*
> *UNE/UNE-P and the appropriate billing for this type of offering. It*
> *"certainly" DOESN'T even begin to cover the costs incurred by the*
> *incumbant LEC (ACS) which by they way we are barely holding a 50% margin*
> *these days on LEC customers in Anchorage and the similar scenarios where*
> *GCI has entered the Market. UNE I feel was an established standard until*
> *ACS was forced to allow a parasite too feed off under the gause of fair*
> *competition. Other states are trying to do something about this also. It*
> *absolutely is a HUGE issue and needs to be looked at from a different*
> *perspective. Would you order from Nordstrom and expect the same*
> *merchandise for a 26% discount that Sears sells theirs for? And then also*
> *expect Sears to deliver it at the same standards?*
> *What I have witnessed through full-page ads, radio spots, Internet*
> *sites, and political maneuvering is an attempt to maintain a structure,*
> *which requires ACS to subsidize its chief competitor, GCI, the cable*
> *monopolist. This subsidy takes root in lease rates that are a mere*
> *fraction of the true cost ACS has incurred. This is NOT right!!! NOR,*
> *would I in good conscientious "ever" state to the public "Fair*
> *Competition" is in place and working here in Alaska. I am proud to work*
> *ACS. If GCI wants to be a phone company and compete they need to become*
> *a Phone Company and do so, not rely on us to install "ALL" the necessary*
> *facilities to adequately support "their" customer base. As an employee*
> *who processes their orders let me tell you, they rely on us completely to*
> *much to provide not only the physical equipment to provide the service but*

> *also how to right there orders, and then complain when they can't right*
> *there orders correctly, that we are delaying service. They lie. That's all*
> *they know what do really well.*
> *They need to be in the field doing what ever is necessary to get*
> *there own customers and not have access to our customer base via*
> *"electronic process" and other methods in which makes the concept of fair*
> *competition a complete joke. Not to mention the fact they pay a fraction*
> *of the cost to cover any of the facilities they need ACS to provide,*
> *install and work for them. We even have to face GCI's so called*
> *"customers" in the field when installing service, for what I might say*
> *most customers in Juneau and Fairbanks didn't know they ordered and sent*
> *us away. What's wrong with that picture?*
> *I love my job, and my community and being able to provide my family*
> *a secure future with the fact I have a STABLE job, that pays well and has*
> *wonderful medical, and other benefits, Including being a member of the*
> *IBEW. Which adds to my pride of what I do.*
>
> *It is imperative for government officials in Alaska to recognize*
> *their is a problem with the current RCA as it stands, and to make the*
> *level of playing field fair to allow more consumer choice, and more open*
> *competition, It must move forward to a deregulatory framework, Also to*
> *quit subsidizing one competitor over another. Support HB 111 AND ALL*
> *Amendments.*
>
The local economy can not afford to have high paying, stable jobs lost. Or better yet who will do GCI's work when we have little to no staff due to layoffs because we are paying for and maintaining their Infra-structure to compete against us >?

I realize this is long and appreciate all you're time, really I do.
Please keep fair competition "FAIR" and Standard!
Not to mention my cable bill certainty hasn't gone down, and I have no other "choice" for cable service, other than getting A dish, which has less standards for choices than cable, where is the competition in that?

> *DONESE FIFIELD*
> *PROUD ACS BUSINESS SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE*
> *564 7972*
> *564 1444 FAX*
>
>
>
>
>
>
This transmittal may contain confidential information intended solely for the addressee. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that you have received this transmittal in error; any review, dissemination, distribution or copying of this transmittal is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please notify us immediately by reply or by telephone (collect at 907-564-1000) and ask to speak with the message sender. In addition, please immediately delete this message and all attachments. Thank you.

Subject: hb111
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 13:54:00 -0800
From: "Masneri, Stanley" <smasneri@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

Dear Representative McGuire;

I know that your offices are being flooded with email and faxes on this issue. I certainly hope you take the time, in good faith, to head what they say.

I am corresponding with you to convey a sense of urgency in asking for your support of House Bill 111 with all of its' pending amendments. Competition is a win/win situation. But only with a level playing field, which has NOT existed in Alaska since the inception of the RCA. It is time to move beyond petty argument and finally bring this issue into alignment with the original intent of the Telecommunications Act. Which I for one do not believe was to force local carriers to subsidize fledgling parasitical companies to the point of their own insolvency. I do not posses the political correctness to state things as subtly or as delicately as yourself, but I do know right from wrong and I would hope that my vote was not wasted last November.

If you and your peers, with your imbued authorities, give the RCA the continuing power to force an already struggling company into yet more concessions, you will surely be to blame for the death of what should have been a backbone industry in the State. Just as if you pulled the plug yourselves. Who then benefits from the RCA's definition of fair competition? As a consumer I don't care in the least if I save a few pennies each month on my services, if those services become jeopardized, threatened, or deleted altogether.

It is my sincere hope that Alaska will finally break the trend of being years behind the rest of the nation in most things progressive. Anyone that cares to keep abreast of the topic of competition knows how the true intent of the Telecomm Act has been twisted and perverted in the court system to do nothing more than subsidize companies that, for the most part, would not exist were it not for their 'smoke and mirror' tactics and huge political contributions. If things are so equal why is it that more and more states are completely reversing their stance and forcing these new 'competitors' to bear their share of the immense costs associated with maintaining the communications infrastructure.

It is only a matter of time before our legislation is forced to do the same. You will simply have no choice. Please make that choice now!!

I strongly urge you to use your political voice to aid in correcting what I, and many others, see as an egregious contradiction to the principles of free enterprise and fair play upon which this nation was founded.

Please give your full support to House Bill 111 and its' proposed amendments.

Sincerely;

Stan Masneri
907-564-1906 (wk)

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us immediately by reply or by telephone (collect at 907-564-1000) and ask to speak with the message sender. In addition, please immediately delete this message and all attachments. Thank you.

Subject: House Bill 111 With Amendments
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 14:12:24 -0800
From: "Crone, Elaine L." <ECrone@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.sta
"'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat
"'Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.sta
"'Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.s

Please pass this bill With Amendments. It will not raise ACS telephone rates and it will provide a more level playing field for GCI and ACS, which the RCA has not been willing to do so far. In a more competitive environment both companies could afford to invest in newer technologies and upgrade their current equipment for the benefit of all Alaskan customers. It is unfair to force one company to subsidize another through below cost wholesale rates, longer depreciation schedules, as well as require tariff restrictions that don't allow ACS to bundle their customer offerings for all services in one call center, as well as other restrictions that only apply to ACS, not GCI.

I have lived and worked in Alaska for over 20 years and seen many changes in the telecommunications industry. I've never seen such an unfair regulatory commission before.

Thank you for your consideration.
Elaine Crone
Sitka

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Subject: RCA
Date: Wed, 14 May 2003 17:24:27 -0800
From: Mathew Family <emerald@gci.net>
To: Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us

Rep McGuire --

During the election, I read your campaign materials and heard you describe your qualifications and experience as a Representative. I am confident they are more than adequate to distinguish between good legislation and plain, bad law.

I have read several position statements opposing HB111 in its current form. I have generally shared the viewpoints of most of them, but the GCI position statement is quite different. I have read it and am alarmed. Amendments have apparently been made that would in some cases actually reverse the Legislature's intent for the RCA. Regardless of whether the GCI analysis is based on a "worst-case" interpretation, several criticisms seem to be based on provisions of the bill that (as amended) are not only unfair to Alaskan telephone users, but also would violate Federal law.

In this crucial legislative session, a bill that could cost both the State government and its citizens so much money with no value received in return should be very carefully evaluated.

Is there really another side to these amendments that I don't see?

Unless there is, please do what you can to preserve the RCA's role and integrity for another four years. It has a good record (NOT just with telephone companies!), and is one of those State services that are well worth their cost.

John Mathew
9200 Emerald St
Anchorage AK
99502-1362
907 243 2511

Subject: RCA
Date: Wed, 14 May 2003 10:34:35 -0800
From: "Toni Dixon" <glhdxn@alaska.net>
To: "Lesil Mcguire" <Representative_Lesil_Mcguire@Legis.state.ak.us>

It seems to me that the current RCA has been ineffective BIG TIME. So, forget the amendments, let it lapse and restructure RCA so that it has an independent oversight - this has becomee political and shouldn't. At this point in looks like the head of RCA and GCI are in bed together.. or at a lodge, or whatever....

telecom deregulation is just behind eleectrical deregulation, and telecom degregulation that are the major failures of our time....

You can't force competition...

-----Original Message-----
From: Toni Dixon [mailto:glhdxn@alaska.net]
Sent: Saturday, May 10, 2003 9:38 PM
To: Lesil Mcguire
Subject: RE: [Fwd: McGuire Renews Push for PFD Eligibility for Peace Corps Volunteers]

You go girl!!!

Hey, as long as we are typing, I've got to tell you that even though my kids are grown and almost gone, from my perspective the State can't spend too much on Education.

And, one more thing. Put a cap on the PFD and institute a simple income tax. Let's get it over with. Murky has already lost his credibility on that issue so it is no longer political suicide for him to use the Cap and Tax words.

Keep up the good work. Try not to let the small thinkers get you down.

Toni Dixon

-----Original Message-----
From: Lesil Mcguire
[mailto:Representative_Lesil_Mcguire@Legis.state.ak.us]
Sent: Saturday, May 10, 2003 6:30 PM
Subject: [Fwd: McGuire Renews Push for PFD Eligibility for Peace Corps Volunteers]

Subject: HB 111
Date: Wed, 14 May 2003 22:15:36 -0800
From: "Howard Marsh, PhD" <hmarsh@nexconsulting.com>
To: Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us

Dear Representative McGuire,

As my elected representative, I would like for you to work to defeat the amended HB111 which, as amended, would allow utilities to act counter to the public's benefit without public oversight. As I understand the amendment(s), ACS would be allowed to change its rate structure without public review. I believe that poor business planning and performance should not be balanced on the backs of consumers through an act of legislation.

Thank you

Sincerely,

Howard Marsh
10631 Cutter Circle
Anchorage, AK 99515

Howard M. Marsh, M.B.A., Ph.D.
Northern Exposure Consulting
Business and Technology Consultant
907-522-1013

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Subject: House Bill 111
Date: Wed, 14 May 2003 21:27:34 -0900
From: "Daniel Foote" <dafoote@aklighthouse.org>
To: Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us

Representative McGuire,

I urge you to move Bill 111 from committee. I also urge you to support HB 111 as submitted, with no amendments.

The Regulatory Commission of Alaska protects consumers, such as you and I. Actions supported by RCA findings have also been supported by state and federal courts.

Special interests and their special amendments have attempted to neuter this commission
for spite, at the same time that they've lost market share due to their inability to support their constituency. Please support your constituency--those of us that have elected you to office AND pay the bills.

Regards,

Daniel Foote
3620 Hazen Circle
Anchorage, AK 99515

May 15th, 2003
Jamieson Kraig Smyth
P.O. Box 8071
Nikiski, AK 99635-8071

The Hon. Rep. Lesil McGuire,

Since first leaving college in Fairbanks 21 years ago, I have done work for every major player in Alaska's telecommunications industry. I have always been a strong advocate of measures promoting fair competition, because it is my desire that our communications infrastructure be the very best for all Alaskans. I believe that legislation currently under consideration (i.e. HB111) is critical to invigorating this vital industry.

The federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 helped to not only ensure universal service, but also encouraged the competition needed to drive infrastructure investment, innovation and development. The job of the RCA has been to make sure the ILEC's did not have an unfair advantage over the CLEC's, and they have done a good job of that. The time has finally come however, when competitive conditions between ILEC and CLEC are reversed, and under current state regulations our physical plant infrastructure is visibly deteriorating, due to unfair competition… in reverse!

Presently, for example, ILEC's are required to carry the weight of all outside plant (telecommunications cabling development and maintenance). CLEC's are essentially exempted from this burden by regulation, being able to access that infrastructure at a fraction of the cost to build and maintain it. ILEC's are thereby strongly discouraged from timely infrastructure investments, as they yield negative rates of return. CLEC's, meanwhile have no incentive to build what they can require an ILEC to provide below cost. The whole industry seems to require a regulatory move just to build or upgrade outside plant facilities. This is only one example of the several problems addressed by HB111.

In this environment competition once flourished, but is now starting to choke out the very structure upon which the entire industry is based! In all my years in this industry, I have never seen a time of so little investment in, and maintenance of the hard assets that comprise the backbone of Alaska's communications network. This is happening at a time when production and quality of communications infrastructure is at a critical juncture that will determine how well we prosper as a state in the information based economy that is developing worldwide.

All parties to market competition are now well enabled, and well equipped to do battle for their share. Take the gloves off, and let them have at it! I urge you to support HB111 as amended, in its entirety. Our future depends on it.

Sincerely,

Jamieson Kraig Smyth
Phone: 907-776-7031
Cellular: 907-398-6989
Email: jksmyth@eudoramail.com



ACS

Alaska Communications Systems

ACS
35126 K. Beach Road
SOLDOTNA, AK 99669
Phone: 907-260-8610
Fax: 907-260-8620

Fax Transmittal Form

To:	From: Dave Christoffer
Name:	A.C.S.
Organization Name/Dept:	
CC:	Phone: 907-260-8610
Phone number:	Fax: 907-260-8620
Fax number:	
☐ Urgent	Date sent: 5/15/03
☐ For Review	Time sent:
☐ Please Comment	Number of pages including cover page: 1
☐ Please Reply	

Message:

RE: SUPPORT HB 111 and AMMENDMENTS

We are not afraid of competition. We are the most highly skilled workforce in the state and we can compete with anyone, just give us a fair playing field. Support HB 111 WITH AMENDMENTS!!!!

907-260-8610 office
800-760-8620 fax



ACS

Alaska Communications Systems

ACS
35126 K. Beach Road
SOLDOTNA, AK 99669
Phone: 907-260-8610
Fax: 907-260-8620

Fax Transmittal Form

To:	From: Jim McWilliams
Name:	A.C.S.
Organization Name/Dept:	
CC:	Phone: 907-260-8610
Phone number:	Fax: 907-260-8620
Fax number:	
☐ Urgent	Date sent: 5/15/03
☐ For Review	Time sent:
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Message:

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907-260-8610 office
800-760-8620 fax



ACS

Alaska Communications Systems

ACS
35126 K. Beach Road
SOLDOTNA, AK 99669
Phone: 907-260-8610
Fax: 907-260-8620

Fax Transmittal Form

To:

Name:
Organization Name/Dept:
CC:
Phone number:
Fax number:

From: Mike Tice

A.C.S.

Phone: 907-260-8610
Fax: 907-260-8620

☐ Urgent
☐ For Review
☐ Please Comment
☐ Please Reply

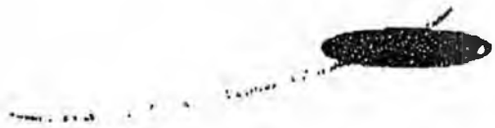
Date sent: 5/15/03
Time sent:
Number of pages including cover page: 1

Message:

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907-260-8610 office
800-760-8620 fax



ACS

Alaska Communications Systems

ACS
35126 K. Beach Road
SOLDOTNA, AK 99669
Phone: 907-260-8610
Fax: 907-260-8620

Fax Transmittal Form

To:	From: Stan Huhndorf
Name:	A.C.S.
Organization Name/Dept:	
CC:	Phone: 907-260-8610
Phone number:	Fax: 907-260-8620
Fax number:	
☐ Urgent	Date sent: 5/15/03
☐ For Review	Time sent:
☐ Please Comment	Number of pages including cover page: 1
☐ Please Reply	

Message:

RE: SUPPORT HB 111 and AMMENDMENTS

We are not afraid of competition. We are the most highly skilled workforce in the state and we can compete with anyone, just give us a fair playing field. Support HB 111 WITH AMENDMENTS!!!!

907-260-8610 office
800-760-8620 fax

Please Support HB 111 and all its amendments!

ACS has to share its products and services with competing companies like GCI. The RCA says this will encourage companies like ACS to spend on capital projects to improve advanced deployment of advanced telecommunications equipment to service Alaskans.

This actually discourages companies like ACS to invest on NEW advanced telecommunications equipment to service Alaskans because ACS would have to share this NEW technology with competing companies like GCI, AT&T and TelAlaska and ACS would not a good return on their investment. Companies like GCI do not have to invest on any capital projects and advanced telecommunications equipment to service Alaskans because they can get it from ACS for below cost.

So why should ACS invest on anything. You're in business to make money, not share investments. Who ends up suffering? We Alaskans.

Thank you,
Gilbert Carrillo
8301 Majestic Dr
Anchorage AK 99504

Lesil McGuire
465-6592

Please support HB 111 with the AMENMENTS.

House Bill 111 as amended passes, Alaskan telecommunications consumers will have competition for the first time. Competition which allows all service providers to offer their "best" deals because all the competing companies will be operating under the same set of rules on a level playing field

Thank you,
Stephen Crozier
907-345-0423
pwdr98cat@aol.com

Lesil McGuire
465-6592

SCENARIO:

I have a first class shoe store called Happy Feet for 80 years.

Federal law says, oh no, you have a monopoly.

You must offer competition, and oh by the way, you need to make room in your store for BOBO Marcus to come in and sell your shoes. They can also buy your shoes at below cost & sell them to the public cheaper.

And oh by the way, if you want to have a sale you need to file for an OK. In the meantime, since BOBO can do what they want (because BOBO needs no OK's from anyone), they've already had the sale and sold at below cost ALL my shoes!!

And oh by the way, they can have access to your cash register & customer data base but you need to pay for the building, the utilities, the buyers and any new inventory.

And oh by the way, BOBO can accelerate their depreciation over 12 years but HAPPY needs to depreciate over 30 years.

LUDICROUS, STUPID, RIDICULOUS you bet it is!!!!!!!!!!!!

But exactly the way RCA treats ACS.

FAIR COMPETITION.....NOT REGULATION

PLEASE SUPPORT HB 111 WITH ALL AMENDMENTS

KAREL SHAW
2334 MARIAN BAY CIR
ANCHORAGE, AK 99515
907-522-5251

I am asking for your support on **HB 111 with amendments** so it will level the playing field for everyone. The competition doesn't have to follow the same rules as ACS. ACS should be allowed to charge the true cost for their facilities and the depreciation rate should be the **same** for **all** the telecommunication companies. ACS should be able to offer all their services & product to the customer with **one** phone call. The rules should be the same for every one. I am asking that you support **HB111 with amendments** so all telecommunication companies has the same level playing field which will benefit all Alaskan.

Thank you,
Mary E. Hughes
ACS/ Service order Representative

May 15, 2003

Very Important!

Judiciary Committee:
Lesil McGuire
Tom Anderson
Dan Ogg
Jim Holm
Ralph Samuels
Les Grara
Max Gruenberg (also my State Representative-go MaxIII)

RE: HB111 & critical amendments

I am a ten year employee of ATU/ACS and I am writing to urge each of you to vote for HB111 with all its' critical amendments in order to promote fair and equitable competition in the telecommunications industry in Alaska. One of the goals of the federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 was to encourage competition of local telephone service providers. However, the Regulatory Commission of Alaska has allowed unfair competition, in that, it gives an unfair advantage to GCI by not requiring them to help pay for costs of building new facilities to service Alaska's growing demand for additional telecommunication facilities. The way it stands now the RCA has given GCI support in it's rulings to "lease" facilities from ACS at a fraction of the costs to maintain and operate the network currently in existence, not to mention the costs of constructing new facilities. There is no reason for ACS to build additional facilities knowing that the competition would be allowed to lease these new facilities at below costs rates & by not requiring GCI to bear some of the costs in constructing these same projects.

Competition between ACS & GCI needs to be done by the same rules. Competition is a good, healthy way for any business to increase and/or maintain a client base. However, the current situation only supports unfair competition as ACS should be allowed to bundle together regulated & deregulated services just as GCI (the cable monopoly company) does at this time and has for over seven years. The subsidy that ACS is made to furnish GCI is unfair and takes root in lease rates that are a mere fraction of the true costs ACS has incurred. I urge you all to support HB111 and all its' critical amendments. HB111 and all its' critical amendments will allow market forces, rather than government regulators to set prices for services in competitive markets. It does NOT raise local telephone rates, but will assist to establish rules and policies that are equitable for all competitors, and achieve lease rates that are close to the truce cost of building, operating and maintaining the facilities.

It is time for governmental officials in Alaska to recognize that there are substantial benefits of open competition and which provides more consumer choices. It is absolutely necessary to move forward to a deregulatory framework, one that allows market forces to replace regulation and to quit subsidizing one competitor over another. When profitable customers are cherry picked by competitors and companies like ACS are left to serve the highest cost customers, universal service is put at risk. The RCA has also given the other guys (GCI) federal support dollars for service high-cost customers without them ever building, operating or maintaining one single high cost line in Alaska. These continued practices undermine the Telecommunications Act of promoting and advancing universal service.

As a voter, I encourage each & every one of you to represent my family and myself when you cast your vote on this important legislation. Please show your support today for the hearing on HB 111 and all its critical amendments.

Beverly A. Lemoine

When Arliss Sturgulewski on a GCI ad., saying about special interest groups. Who are the special interests group here Arliss? Arliss is saying something that most people don't know what she is saying here. GCI don't have to phone cable lines and they are paying less than other for the use of that cable.

ACS has to share its products and services with competing companies like GCI, and this will encourage companies like ACS to spend on capital projects to improve advanced deployment of advanced telecommunications equipment to service Alaskans. This actually discourages companies like ACS to invest on NEW advanced telecommunications equipment to service Alaskans because ACS would have to share this NEW technology with competing companies like GCI, AT&T and TelAlaska and ACS would not a good return on their investment. Companies like GCI, do not have to invest on any capital projects and advanced telecommunications equipment to service Alaskans because they can get it from ACS for below cost. So why should ACS invest on anything. Your in business to make money, not share investments. Who ends up suffering? We Alaskans, the public.

This is what i sent them.
Gilbert Carrillo
8301 Majestic Dr.
Anchorage Ak 99504
907-333-0101

I support HB 111 and all its amendments! Give us a chance... make it fair and we will make it better for Alaska. How about letting ACS develop a cable television customer base and lease GCI equipment for pennies, which would enable us to provide ACS cable television service to OUR customers at a much lower cost of service than GCI could provide? Do you think GCI could stay in the cable business if they had to foot the bill to maintain all the equipment necessary to provide service to their customers AND ours? This is exactly the scenario in regard to the telecom side of our relationship with GCI. They lease our equipment for pennies, which enables them charge their customers less which, of course, brings them more customers for less money!

Pam Estep
ACS Payroll
907.564.1552

Molly Aichner
8221 Sue St.
Anchorage, AK 99502

May 15, 2003

Rep. Lesil McGuire

Dear Rep. Lesil McGuire,
Subject: HB 111

I am writing today to support HB 111 with all amendments. I have worked in the telecommunications industry for 6 years, in which the changes have been extremo. I am all for fair and equal competition, but currently this is not happening. Fair competition does not mean disabling the incumbent local exchange carrier. Level the playing field so ACS can really compete in this industry mean fair wholesale rates, unbundling and less restrictive tariffs.

The bottom line is Alaskan jobs are at jeopardy, if these debilitating regulations continue many families from Fairbanks to Juneau will feel the downsizing of this company.

Sincerely,

Molly Aichner
One of the many Alaska Communication Systems employees

Representative Lesil McGuire,

I would like to voice my dismay at HB111 not being approved with **ALL AMENDMENTS** attached. I am a lifelong Alaskan and ACS employee, and am very concerned about the current situation with the RCA. Deregulation has defenatly not worked thus far. Look at the California energy crisis for an example of what is going to happen here. If GCI is allowed to lease ACS's facilities for less than it costs ACS to build and maintain them, it will not be long before ACS is bankrupt. GCI can afford to sell phone service cheap because they get $10 federal money per line for maintenance which ACS must maintain for them. In addition ACS is required to lease their lines to GCI for $19, which is over $12 less than it costs ACS to build and maintain. And on top of that they just keep raising their cable TV rates which they have the Monopoly on. For example my fathers neighbor built a new house and wanted GCI service, they told him he first that he needed to sign up with ACS to have the copper line buried and then he could switch over to GCI for free. Where is the incentive for ACS to build anything? It has already been four years of this with the RCA and I don't think that ACS can last another four. The RCA is definitely on GCI's side. Remember the little ordeal with GCI flying the RCA higher-ups to it exclusive fishing lodge last year? When the only utility in Alaska that wants the RCA bill passed without amendments is GCI, there must be something going on. I love living in Alaska and would hate to lose my job and have to move my family outside. Lets make competition in Alaska fair and impartial, only then will both companies invest in our infrastructure.

Curtis Dunham
2906 Doris St.
Anchorage, Alaska
99517
(907) 274-2878

TESTIMONY OF KRISTI CATLIN
HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
HOUSE BILL 111
MAY 15, 2003

Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee. For the record, my name is Kristi Catlin, Director of Government Affairs for AT&T Alascom, with its main business address at 210 E. Bluff Drive, Anchorage, Alaska 99501. Thank you for the opportunity to testify at this hearing.

Throughout this session, AT&T Alascom has consistently supported its Dominance amendment language, while reserving its opinion about the other proposed amendments until our internal analysis could be completed on those amendments. As you know, this amendment process has taken on a life of its own, and what started out to be a reasonable request for market definitions has now turned into a far-reaching amendment, parts of which cannot be supported by AT&T Alascom.

With that in mind, and after a great deal of thought and consideration, as a result of some of the changes that have been added to the amendment, AT&T Alascom intends to separate its pursuit of a definition of Dominance from the legislation re-authorizing the RCA. We continue to believe, however, that regulatory relief from Dominance is essential and must be dealt with as soon as possible. If a market is truly opened to competition, regulation should be decreased rather than increased. Under the current circumstances, we believe that our best course of action is to pursue the opening of a docket at the RCA that will deal exclusively with the issue of interexchange Dominance.

For these reasons, AT&T Alascom will support a clean bill with a 2-year reauthorization, which is the term recommended by legislative audit. The Commission's unwillingness to reduce regulation in competitive markets, however, must change. Until we are able to gauge the new Commission's ability and willingness to work toward reduced regulation in competitive markets, AT&T believes that a 3-4 year extension of the RCA is too long.

Thank you once again for this opportunity to present our testimony. I will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

FROM : RAY GILLESPIE & ASSOCIATES PHONE NO. : 907 463 5522 May. 15 2003 01:20PM P2



ALASKA STATE HOMEBUILDERS ASSOCIATION

Alaska State Home Building Association
8301 Schoon, Ste 200
Anchorage, Alaska 99518

RESOLUTION 03-2 "A Resolution of Support of Alaska HB 111 with No Amendments"

WHEREAS, The Alaska State Home Building Association supports the basic concept that telecommunications is one of the most important infrastructures components we have in Alaska, and;

WHEREAS, The Alaska State Home Building Association supports the Regulatory Commission of Alaska, which has always protected consumers and deftly implemented complex regulatory principals that directly benefit our communities, and;

WHEREAS, The Alaska State Home Building Association are concerned about proposed special interest legislation that will increase consumer and business local phone rates. Although the special interests are pushing this legislation are calling it pro-competitive, the proposed legislation is both anti-competitive and anti-consumer and;

WHEREAS, the proposed legislation has been added to HB 111 to extend the life of the Regulatory Commission of Alaska. Please protect ratepayers throughout Alaska by extending the life of the Regulatory Commission with no special interest amendments, and;

NOW, THERFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Home Building Association's Board of Directors supports HB 111 with no amendments;

Adopted, this the 15th day of May, 2003.

Signed:_____
President

Attest: _____
Secretary or Treasurer

Subject: HB111
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 13:58:56 -0800
From: "Simmons, Celestina" <csimmons@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat
"'Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.sta
"'Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.sta
"'Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.s

> My name is Celestina Simmons, and I am taking this opportunity to write
> you regarding HB111. As it stand this will be the demise of the company
> I work for. My family has lived in Alaska for almost thirty years, and I
> have worked for my present employer for twenty five of those years.
>
> I am one of the employees that took a leading roll years ago when ATU came
> up for sale the first time. I made commercials for one of the then
> interested companies, Citizen Utilities. My commercials at that time
> addressed competition for Anchorage.
>
> True competition is not what is happening here. My company has to ask for
> permission of the RCA to combine any service we wish to offer our
> customers when our competitors do not have to go before the RCA for the
> same request. Leasing of our lines is also done on a very uneven scale.
> Example: you are leasing office space at the rate of thirty dollars a
> month and the Federal government decides that you have to turn around and
> lease your space to someone else for nineteen dollars a month. All the
> maintenance of the office is done by you and that cost cannot be passed on
> to your client. How do you keep up? A level competitive playing field?
>
>
> This is but a small example of what we have had to live with, and it has
> come to a point that things have to change. Competition is good for
> everyone, and it keeps us all on our toes. But like any boxer in a ring we
> can not put up a good fight with our hands chained behind are backs. With
> fair and open competition, if we still can't make it, then shame on us. We
> deserve that chance.
>
> Please put the amendments back on HB111. All we our asking for is fair
> competition.
>
>
>
>
> Celes Simmons
7401 Hillside Way
Anchorage Alaska 99516
>
>
>

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Subject: House Bill 111 With Amendments
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 14:12:24 -0800
From: "Crone, Elaine L." <ECrone@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.sta
"'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat
"'Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.sta
"'Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.st

Please pass this bill With Amendments. It will not raise ACS telephone rates and it will provide a more level playing field for GCI and ACS, which the RCA has not been willing to do so far. In a more competitive environment both companies could afford to invest in newer technologies and upgrade their current equipment for the benefit of all Alaskan customers. It is unfair to force one company to subsidize another through below cost wholesale rates, longer depreciation schedules, as well as require tariff restrictions that don't allow ACS to bundle their customer offerings for all services in one call center, as well as other restrictions that only apply to ACS, not GCI.

I have lived and worked in Alaska for over 20 years and seen many changes in the telecommunications industry. I've never seen such an unfair regulatory commission before.

Thank you for your consideration.
Elaine Crone
Sitka

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Subject: HB111
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 14:16:10 -0800
From: "Hamsley, Larry E." <lhamsley@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

I have been employed by local telephone service providers for 34 years in Fairbanks. For the past few years I have seen a dramatic change in the approach to providing quality telephone service. As a present employee of ACS, we as acompany are not able to make decisions based on the desire to provide expected quality service to the local subscribers. This is due to the unfairness of current regulation. I provide network engineering for Fairbanks, Delta, Eielson AFB, Ft. Wainwright, Nenana, and the Kenai Peninsula. My duties include upgrades to the existing network and expansion to allow for growth. For the last few years I have not had a network project approved. This is not due to a lack of ACS's desire to continue building and expanding a state of the art network. It is due to the fact that a competitor can sit like a vulture watching a dying animal and unfairly take advantage of any facilities on a pick and choose basis without risking anything. How can any law be justified that allows this? Under the current regulation GCI can build transport facilities to serve the cream of the crop customers and not be forced to share the cost of serving all customers. I'll stop at this point because I know you are extremely busy but please pass HB111 with amendments and level the playing field for competition.

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Subject: Fair Competition
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 14:25:18 -0800
From: "Handy, Steve" <Steve.Handy@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat
"'Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.sta
"'Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.sta
"'Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.s

Dear Distinguished Representatives;

After moving to Alaska I never once missed illogical politics. The general population, my friends, neighbors, seemingly everyone operates with what seems to be overlaying sense of what is right, fair and logical. I presume you may be nodding your head as you read this, concurring with this sentiment. GCI has not presented itself as a company operating in this manner. If you are truly knowledgeable as to what is happening here in the trenches where we work, where we actually install and maintain most the machines GCI uses to transport their traffic and then see and hear them announce publicly that ACS is deceitful, you would know from where the real deceit comes. Please do what is fundamentally right - Please vote to support HB 111 and all its critical amendments.

I have worked in the Telecommunications industry for many years and I find myself in a situation where my company is not allowed to compete.... my job security, retirement, and future are at stake. Please support HB 111 and all its critical amendments.

ACS should be allowed to compete by the same rules as GCI. For example, ACS should be allowed to bundle together regulated and unregulated services such as local, long distance, Internet and Wireless (the cable monopoly- GCI- has been able to do this for over seven years). I encourage you to support HB 111 and all its critical amendments.

What we have witnessed through full-page ads, radio spots, Internet sites, and political maneuvering is an attempt to maintain a structure, which requires ACS to subsidize its chief competitor, GCI, the cable monopolist. This subsidy takes root in lease rates that are a mere fraction of the true cost ACS has incurred. I encourage you to support HB 111 and all its critical amendments.

When House Bill 111 as amended passes, Alaskan telecommunications consumers will have real competition for the first time. Competition which allows all service providers to offer their "best" deals because all the competing companies will be operating under the same set of rules on a level playing field.

As a voter in your district, I encourage you to represent my family and myself when you cast your vote on this important legislation. Please support HB 111 and all its critical amendments.

Forcing ACS to subsidize its competitors is not competition. Please vote to support HB 111 and all its critical amendments.

Sincerely,
Steve Handy
ACS Wireless / Southeast
Phone - (907) 321-8266
2092 Jordan Avenue, Suite 550
Juneau, AK 99801

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Subject: re: HB111 with amendments
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 14:27:25 -0800
From: "Misuck, Regan E." <bmisuck@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

Hello, I am a customer and an employee of Alaska Communications Systems, my family works at ACS as well. As a Customer Service Representative, I speak with customers on a daily basis. The majority of their complaints center around the regulations imposed on ACS by the RCA. One of the most frequently asked questions I hear is, "How come I can call GCI and get all the information I need at one time but when I call ACS I get transferred to three different departments to get the information I need? Don't you people know what you are doing?" I urge you to support HB111 with all the amendments so that we can give our customers the best customer service available. Thank you, Regan

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May 15, 2003

Dear Representatives,

My name is Brenda Harris and I am writing to ask for your support for HB-111. I am a single mother and I too work for ACS. I have worked in the telephone industry for the last 13 years. In the last 4 years I have watched the company that I work for struggle to survive. It is very maddening to me not to be able to voice my opinion because I work for the "supposedly" leading Telephone Company.

I have watched GCI slam us into the ground on every issue. I have watched the Anchorage Daily News print biased materiai. I have read letters to the editor from angry customers who cannot get telephone service and it's always the fault of ACS. We are responsible for everything that goes wrong in the State of Alaska when it comes to Telecommunication problems.

This infuriates me as an employee, and as a citizen. There is nothing fair about the current requirements of ACS. Why should ACS have to lay equipment and turn around and lease it for a lower rate than it cost our company? Especially when GCI owns a majority of the market. Right now we spend half of our time taking care of GCI customers and our own are neglected. This does nothing for ACS as a company. This is an all around loosing battle for ACS and is not fair. It does nothing for the public and does nothing for our company.

GCI is the monopoly not only in the telephone industry but also in the cable business.

Subject: HB111
Date: Wed, 14 May 2003 09:37:01 -0800
From: "Leder, Gary S." <GLeder@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

Dear Rep McGuire,
I am writing for your help in amending HB111 to offer fairness in Alaska's telecom market. As you know, ACS has been operating at a loss as a result of being forced by law to lease their facilities to their competitor at below cost . Most people can not fathom how this can happen in America, I am one of them. Competition should be fair and true, HB 111 was amended at one point to reflect fairness. I urge you to investigate the amendments and I believe you will agree that they are logical and fair, not to mention long overdue.
The easy thing to do would be to just extend RCA's life for four years and let them deal with this. The problem, however, is that the RCA is the root cause of the gross unfairness in the telecom industry that we see today. The right thing to do, is give the RCA an extended life only with new rules to operate under, as proposed in the amendments to HB111.
This is a very deep issue and I hope you will educate yourself on the details. Alaskans will be the winners if true and fair competition were to finally come to our state in the telecom industry. Thank you for your time.
Gary Leder Juneau

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Subject: HB 111
Date: Wed, 14 May 2003 10:08:05 -0800
From: ibewjno@ptialaska.net
To: Representative_Norman_Rokeberg@legis.state.ak.us, Representative_Pete_Kott@legis.state.ak.us, Representative_John_Coghill@legis.state.ak.us, Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us, Representative_Carl_Morgan@legis.state.ak.us, Representative_Ethan_Berkowitz@legis.state.ak.us, Representative_Beth_Kerttula@legis.state.ak.us

Dear Rules Chair Rokeberg and Committee Members,

I write this letter to you all today asking for your support of HB111 with the amendment text added back into it that came from Labor and Commerce and was stripped out in House Finance. I am a lifelong Alaskan and Telecom worker for twenty four years in our State. I believe that it is now the time for our Legislature to extend our RCA's life, but more importantly to give it specific guidelines to make it act objectively and fairly to ensure competition in Alaska. These amendments will do just that. If competition is truly going to occur in Alaska these measures must be undertaken to make all competitors for markets and customers play by the same rules.

For too long now our APUC and the current RCA have placed unfair burdens on certain companies while favorably treating entrants into the original company's markets at the original company's expense. How can it possibly be fair for one company to have to build telecommunications infrastructure and lease it to a competitor for amounts that will not allow it to recover the cost of building? How can it be fair for the FCC to recommend accelerated depreciation rates for telecommunications companies and for our RCA to controvert that in their rulings here, thus slowing investment in new infrastructure and services? This is not fair and equitable treatment to all.

I believe that the Legislature is charged with the oversight of the RCA and needs to give it clear direction for the way competition is fairly carried out in Alaska. Again I ask that you support HB111 and add the amendments back into the Bill so that Alaskan consumers can enjoy the benefits of further investment in Alaska by companies providing state of the art services at reasonable prices. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Mike Notar
124 Front St.
Juneau, AK 99801
(907) 586-3050

Subject: Please support House Bill No.111 with the current amendments.
Date: Wed, 14 May 2003 12:39:03 -0800
From: gilbertc@acsalaska.net
To: "Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state

Please support House Bill No.111 with the current amendments.

Section 1. (1) Findings and Purpose. Says the Telecommunications Act of 1996 was enacted to foster the rapid deployment of advanced telecommunications, information technologies, and services Americans by promoting competition and reducing regulation in telecommunications nationwide.

ILEC like ACS have to share it's products and services with CLEC like GCI, this will not encourage companies like ACS to spend on capital projects and improve the rapid deployment of advanced telecommunications to serve Alaskans. This actually discourages companies like ACS to invest on NEW advanced technologies, ACS would have to share this NEW technology service with CLEC's like GCI, and they do not get any money on their return. Companies like GCI do not invest on any capital projects and improve the rapid deployment of advanced telecommunications to serve Alaskans, because they get for below cost with ILEC companies like ACS. Who ends up suffering? The public.

Ask GCI to be the carrier of last resort and they most likely with say they are not interested in that area. So the Carriers of last resort like ACS would be forced to deploy investment and then GCI comes back and wants to enter that area. Not a fair playing field.

Please vote for House Bill No.111with the current amendments.

My wife, my kids and myself thank you for doing this.
Thank you,
Gilbert Carrillo
8301 Majestic Dr
Anchorage AK 99504

Subject: Bill HB 111 With Amendments
Date: Wed, 14 May 2003 14:19:48 -0800
From: "Buttolph, Linda K." <LButtolp@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

You need to Approve Bill HB 111 with ALL AMENDMENTS! For Fair Competition, All Companies need to be on an equal playing field. I have been in the Telecommunications industry for over 21 years and have lived in Alaska for 31 years. I live in your district and request your Help to get this Bill Approved with the Amendments. I also work for ACS. If Bill HB 111 is approved without the Amendments, I feel ACS will not be able to continue Business. How can you find someone to Purchase a Company that can not turn a Profit, because your hands are tied. GCI will not be on the list to Purchase ACS, I can assure you.
The Agreement GCI is working under, was put in place when ATU was owned by the City of Anchorage. ATU did not need to show a Profit. ACS is a privately owned company, just like any other Business. If you did not show a Profit in your Own Business, you surely would not continue.

Competition to me is - Let all Companies place there own infrastructure.

NOW LET'S COMPETE

Sincerely

Linda Buttolph
2001 Shore Dr
Anchorage Alaska 99515

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Subject: HB111 must have amendments
Date: Wed, 14 May 2003 14:41:20 -0800
From: "Varness, Bob (Robert)" <Robert.Varness@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

My name is Bob Varness, I currently work for ACS in Juneau. I've worked Telecommunications in Alaska since 1976. Over the years I've traveled and worked in most all of the Southeast communities and some up North. In the past I've witnessed inefficient operations, procedures and practices that have given most communications monopolies the reputation they currently enjoy today. It's no secret, everyone loves to hate the telephone company. Moving beyond old thinking and beat up payphones, the industry changed a while back but some haven't really noticed. Competitors are still working the public for their not so fond memories and feelings of the past.

I'm proud to say since Alaska Communications Systems has purchased PTI, ATU and FMUS properties, I've seen positive change in all areas of the organizations. Our procedures and operational norms look quite different than a half decade ago. As part of our re-organization efforts, services we once gave away or what was included in the overall cost of doing business is not free anymore, so we must recover costs whenever we can due to reduced revenues from competition, but like all business, this is good business (you know, mean and lean) like everyone else we want to keep our rates competitive and give our customers a service of value. To accomplish these goals were required to charge most of our customers what it costs to do business, there are others we give a good deal to, because were required to do so by the RCA.

I don't understand why the RCA continues to subsidize CLEC's at the ILEC's expense, I don't think its fair to make one companies customers pay for another companies customers, is that realistic? that's happening today. Competition is a good thing, I'm all for it. Why are CLEC's not required to build out the Plant with the Universal Service Funds they receive. It's clear to me their not re-investing in the middle mile and all Alaskans telecommunications future is ultimately on the line. If the Alaskan lawmakers continue to let the RCA operate as they have been, I believe telecommunications in Alaska may suffer more than we all know. The old phone companies and the 900 lb. Gorilla attitude left Alaska 5 years ago, I don't think it's fair to stereotype the other new guy on the block.. ACS.

Thanks
Robert A.

Varness

3819

Killewich Drive

Juneau,

Alaska 99801

789.2433

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Subject: HB 111
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 06:44:03 -0800
From: "Joni" <jonij@arctic.net>
To: <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us>

Dear Ms. McGuire,

The RCA has consistently misinterpreted FCC regulations and manipulated them to bring about a slow death for competition in Alaska's Telephone Services and Internet Services market, as well as placing unfair burden on the Electrical Utilities in this great state. I can see subsidizing a new comers arrival in the market place for a year or two - but long term subsidies at the direct expense of the companies (now one) who spent decades and millions building the copper network that links Alaskans to each other, and to the outside world is not only unfair but should be brought to an end before there are over a thousand families with their bread winners in the unemployment lines!<?xml:namespace prefix = o ns = "urn:schemas-microsoft-com:office:office" />

I have been employed by both Chugach Electric and ACS through my years in Alaska and have seen jobs lost and red ink flow across the ledger pages because of actions by the RCA that are in direct contradiction to the advisements of the FCC that were designed to keep competition healthy and thriving in the lower 48. If the RCA were fair and effective in the regulations they produce and enforce - Alaskans would have a CHOICE about who to buy their technology services from in even the most remote locations. As things stand today - ACS operates the existing network at a loss and can't possibly expand the network or invest in new technology because it is required to serve GCI customers before it's own and at a loss of millions of dollars each year as customers go to GCI so enjoy the preferential treatment by ACS. How can this be fair or "free enterprise"?

I ask you - please reconsider the amendments that have been stripped from House Bill 111 and do NOT approve this bill without adding those amendments. We do not need to give anyone an advantage - we just need to make the playing field LEVEL for everyone! That's what these amendments would do - just make it fair so hard working Alaskans can stay in Alaska to raise their children and watch future generations benefit from wise legislative action taken today.

Thank you for your time.

Joni Johnson

Eagle River Alaska

Subject: House Bill 111
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 07:49:25 -0800
From: ibewjno@ptialaska.net
To: Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us, Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.state.ak.us, Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us, Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us, Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.state.ak.us, Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us, Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.state.ak.us

Dear Judiciary Chair McGuire, Vice-Chair Anderson and Committee Members,

I ask myself what is the main purpose of a corporation or any business? I believe I already know the answer. It is to make money. A novel conclusion and I am impressed with my analytical powers. Then I ask myself again why a certain "competitive" telecommunications corporation in our State would be so concerned for consumers, and willing to spend big money on full-page ads, radio and TV spots, and have an unsuccessful gubernatorial candidate endorse their efforts. It is greed, and their own knowledge that they enjoy unfair advantages in the telecommunications market, coupled with them feeling threatened by the possibility that they may lose these unfair advantages. Another novel conclusion, and again I am impressed with myself for figuring out that all the ads are an attempt to deceive the public. I question how effective they've actually been, but then realize they have at least succeeded in fooling Arliss and AARP with their scary misinformation and Madison Avenue ads.

Then I apply my knowledge of the industry in our State through my own twenty-plus years of experience in it. Having gone through the scary and uncertain times of deregulation in the 1980's, I've now come to the conclusion that there are not any telecommunications monopolies in Alaska anymore. If competition is what was wanted, then now let it truly and fairly begin. The Legislature can extend and give the RCA guidelines in statute that will assure that one company is not favored over another, or have to provide its facilities to the other for under-market and non-recoverable costs. If the RCA is only extended, without the necessary amendments to achieve this, that may well serve to further foster the success of one company and continue the downward spiral of another, resulting in the loss of nearly one thousand good paying jobs across our State. That would be bad public policy in my mind. I urge you to vote HB111 out of your Committee with the amendments added back in that were eliminated in the House Finance Committee. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Mike Notar
124 Front St.
Juneau, AK 99801
(907) 586-3050

Subject: HB 111
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 08:29:30 -0800
From: "Diamond, Barbara" <barbara.diamond@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

Dear Representative McGuire:

I have worked in the Telecommunications industry for twenty years and I find myself in a situation where my company is not allowed to compete.... my job security, retirement, and my future are at stake. Please support HB 111 and all its critical amendments.

ACS should be allowed to compete by the same rules as GCI. For example, ACS should be allowed to bundle together regulated and unregulated services such as local, long distance, Internet and Wireless (the cable monopoly- GCI- has been able to do this for over seven years). I encourage you to support HB 111 and all its critical amendments.

What we have witnessed through full-page ads, radio spots, Internet sites, and political maneuvering is an attempt to maintain a structure, which requires ACS to subsidize its chief competitor, GCI, the cable monopolist. This subsidy takes root in lease rates that are a mere fraction of the true cost ACS has incurred. I encourage you to support HB 111 and all its critical amendments.

Would ACS raise its Local and/or Business Customer Rates by $100 million annually? Of course not. Such action by ACS would drive customers to the competition. ACS would raise its interconnection fees so that GCI was paying a compensatory rate for use of the ACS Network. This is competition at work.

When House Bill 111 as amended passes, Alaskan telecommunications consumers will have real competition for the first time. Competition which allows all service providers to offer their "best" deals because all the competing companies will be operating under the same set of rules on a level playing field.

As a voter in your district, I encourage you to represent my family and myself when you cast your vote on this important legislation. Please support HB 111 and all its critical amendments.

Forcing ACS to subsidize its competitors is not competition. Please vote to support HB 111 and all its critical amendments.

Thank you

Sincerely

Barbara L. Diamond

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Subject: HB111 WITH AMENDMENTS
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 08:37:55 -0800
From: "Rondeau, Jane" <jrondeau@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

I am currently an ACS employee with an insider view of the telecommunications industry within Alaksa.

The competition between ACS and GCI is and has been controlled from the onset. Unlike the GCI commercial spin, it has never been a matter of letting freedom ring.
This restrained, deregulated environment has imposed regulations on ACS that are detrimental to it's survival. First, ACS is forced to lease lines to it's major competitor, GCI, below the cost of maintaining those lines. There is no incentive for ACS to enhance the infrastructure it's losing money on, and there is no incentive for GCI to get off the gravy train. Second, unlike GCI, ACS is restricted from bundling it's products. What this means is that the consumer who calls GCI has the ability to
make one phone call, speak to one person, and order numerous products. If placing that order at ACS, the call would be
transferred from department to department. Last, the rate of phone line depreciation is slighted in GCI's favor even though the burden
of maintaining those lines lies with ACS. Due to legal trappings, ACS has lost 50% of the Anchorage market share, and is steadily losing more.
ACS can't continue to exist and provide the service that Alaska depends upon unless there is legislative relief. No company can.

What other company would buy into this losing proposition? Will the infrastructure eventually collapse, or be propped up by corporate welfare?

The option of ACS failing doesn't' benefit Anchorage citizens or it's politicians.
In order to counter the downward spiral of the Alaskan communications systems, I urge you to vote yes on HB111, with amendments.

Sincerely,
Jane Rondeau

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Subject: HB111 With Amendments
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 08:39:50 -0800
From: "Ketchum, Judy" <JKETCHUM@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

I have worked here at Alaska Communications System for almost 17 years. I am really concerned that if we don't manage to make the competitive market more fair that ACS will eventually go down and many many layoffs will occur, possibly my job. I have invested a career in this business and am very concerned that is this HB111 with Amendments doesn't pass that what I have invested will be gone. The competition out there is not fair, our competitors can lease facilities cheaper than it costs us to maintain these, that makes it difficult to stay in business very long. In order to have fair competition out there we need to have the HB111 with Amendments to be passed as this will allow our competitors to lease at a price that will be fair in order to stay in business.

Having a government regulators setting all the rules does not do justice to competition, we need the market forces to do this to ensure that all competition is open and fair. Passing this House Bill with Amendments will allow ACS and GCI to complete in a fair business and allow ACS to be able to run our business in a very competitive fashion.

I urge you to please vote on passing this HB111 with Amendments in hopes that it will even out our competition and we can run a business with competitive prices on products, services. Thank you for your time, I will be following carefully and very attentively to what is happening with this HB as this may be my job or a retirement in the future depending on if it passes or not. I support the HB111 with Amendments and I hope I can count on you to pass the HB111 with Amendments so we can enjoy a fair competition market here in Anchorage.

Judy Ketchum
CABS Billing Specialist

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Subject: PLEASE SUPPORT HB 111 WITH AMMENDMENTS
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 08:41:23 -0800
From: "Powell, Laura A." <lpowell@acsalaska.com>
To: "'representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.state.ak.us'" <representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.sta
"'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat
"'Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.sta
"'Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.sta

Dear Honorable Representatives,

> *My name is Laura Powell. I am a born and raised Alaskan. For most of my*
> *life I lived in Homer where there has always been only 1 phone company.*
> *So, I really want to see fair competition. I believe in it, as I feel it*
> *benefits the customer and it can also benefit the companies and our state*
> *to have fair competetion among companies.*
>
> *I work at ACS so it may seem that I am a little biased. But, I try to*
> *look at it from a laymans standpoint.*
>
> *If you can imagine having 2 small town bakers. One has a factory to*
> *manufacture the pie pans. They also have a full service bakery where they*
> *bake the pies with ingredients that they purchase. Baker B down the block*
> *doesn't have a factory or the ovens to make the pans or the pies. But the*
> *Baking commision tells Baker A that they must lease the pie pans to Baker*
> *B for less than what Baker A can make them for. But, not only must they*
> *lease them the pans, they must bake the pies and sell them to Baker B,*
> *below cost as well. Baker B sells the pies at a cheaper price than Baker*
> *A can and then when the pie pans get broken or dented they just have Baker*
> *A's factory repair them, at NO cost to Baker B.*
>
> *In this scenerio there is NO incentive for Baker B to buy their own*
> *factory or ovens. Why should they? They are getting a product at a cost*
> *that is cheaper than it would cost them to make the pies themselves.*
>
> *Where is the fairness? Where is the competition? Where is the*
> *regulation? Where is the monopoly? Where does that leave the customer*
> *when the "supplier" goes out of business and the re-seller doesn't own the*
> *equipment?*
>
> *This is a very simplistic way to look at the whole picture, I realize.*
> *This is how I would explain it to my children, who depend on me to keep my*
> *job. I am concerned that if HB111 passes without ammendments, that I may*
> *have to explain to my children why they can't have new clothes for*
> *school...And not only that, I will be explaining to my family who live in*
> *Homer, why another service provider in that town will be suffering because*
> *of "regulations." They already have lost out on other services that the*
> *rest of the state enjoys....*
>
> *I urge you to support HB111 WITH ammendments.*
>
> *It's the fair thing to do. It's the right thing to do, for the companies*
> *involved, for all the customers involved and for all Alaskans.*
> *Competition is a great tool, when it is used properly.*
>
> *Thank you for your time and consideration.*
>

> *Laura Powell*
> *564-1466 work*
>
>
>
>
>
>

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Subject: I support HB 111
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 08:43:33 -0800
From: "Johnson, Maydeen R." <maydeen.johnson@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

What the RCA has done to ACS is unfair.

The public is also being mislead, misinformed & deceived by GCI & the media. ACS is a long time alaskan corporation, what are these fellow alaskans doing?

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Subject: HB111
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 12:43:50 -0400
From: "Connie Maze" <cmaze@acsalaska.com>
To: "The Honorable Lesil L. McGuire" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us>

Connie Maze
1506 Wolverine Street
Anchorage, AK 99504

May 15, 2003

The Honorable Lesil L. McGuire
House of Representatives
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative McGuire:

I have worked in the Telecommunications industry for a relatively short time but decided to start a career in this field. Now I find myself in a situation where my job security and retirement, my future, is at stake because the company I work for is not allowed to compete. Please support HB111 and all its critical amendments.

When House Bill 111 as amended passes, Alaskan telecommunications consumers will have real competition for the first time. Competition which allows all service providers to offer their best deals because all the competing companies will be operating under the same set of rules, on a level playing field. For seven years GCI has been allowed to bundle together regulated and unregulated services, such as, local, long distance, Internet and Wireless. ACS has not been allowed to do so. ACS is required to subsidize GCI by lease rates that are a fraction of the true cost ACS incurs. Basically, ACS is forced to give GCI use of our company infrastructure, for the sake of competition, without being allowed to collect proper compensation for that use. This is not competition it's subsidy. Please support HB111 and all its critical amendments.

I have seen TV ads, heard radio ads, by politicians, paid for by GCI, stating that, ACS will raise its rates by $100 million annually if HB111 is passed. This is ridiculous! That would drive our customers to the competition. ACS would raise its interconnection fees so that GCI was paying a compensatory rate for use of the ACS Network. GCI doesn't want to give up their free ride, that they have enjoyed far too long. If the concern is really competition, why has nothing been done to address the monopoly that GCI has in the cable industry.

As a voter, I encourage you to represent my family and myself when you cast your vote on this important legislation. Please support HB111 and all its critical amendments.

Sincerely,

Connie Maze

Subject: HB 111
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 08:47:28 -0800
From: "Schimmeyer, Brent" <BSchimmeyer@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

hello my name is brent schimmeyer born and raised here in alaska and a constant voter. im just letting you know that i support the HB 111 with amendments and would like to see it go through. it would level the playing field in alaska and force GCI to pay there far share for using the network that ACS builds and maintains

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Subject: HB 111 Yes, support for Amendments
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 08:52:15 -0800
From: "LeNorman, Stacy" <IMCEAEX-_O=ALASKA+20COMMUNICATIONS+20SYSTEMS+2C+2
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

With all due respect,
I support House Bill 111 as amended. I would hope you would support the bill as amended as well.

When this amended bill passes, Alaskan telecommunications consumers will have real competition for the first time. Competition which allows all service providers to offer their 'best' deals because all the competing companies will be operating under the same set of rules on a level playing field.

Please support this amended bill. Thank you,

Stacy LeNorman
410 Kayak Drive
Anchorage, AK 99515
(907) 348-0101

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Subject: Support for HB111 WITH ALL AMENDMENTS
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 08:56:30 -0800
From: "Dunham, Curtis L" <cdunham@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat
"'Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.sta
"'Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.s
"'Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.sta

I have worked in the Telecommunications industry for three years and I find myself in a situation where my company is not allowed to compete, because of unfair regulations by the RCA. My job security, retirement, and my children's future are at stake. Please support HB 111 and all its critical amendments. ACS should be allowed to compete by the same rules as GCI. For example, ACS should be allowed to bundle together regulated and unregulated services such as local, long distance, Internet and Wireless (the cable monopoly- GCI- has been able to do this for over seven years). What we have witnessed through full-page ads, radio spots, Internet sites, and political maneuvering is an attempt to maintain a structure, which requires ACS to subsidize its chief competitor, GCI, the cable monopoly company. If you look at GCI's balance sheet their biggest money looser is their local phone service. They simply drive up the cost of cable TV (over $60 per month now) This subsidy drives down the service to Alaskans because their is no incentive to build or upgrade the infrastructure with lease rates that are a mere fraction of the true cost ACS has incurred. If HB 111 is passed with amendments ACS would raise its interconnection fees so that GCI was paying a fair rate for use of the ACS Network. This is competition at work.

When House Bill 111 as amended passes, Alaskan telecommunications consumers will have real competition for the first time. Competition which allows all service providers to offer their "best" deals because all the competing companies will be operating under the same set of rules on a level playing field. As a voter in your district, I encourage you to represent my family and myself when you cast your vote on this important legislation. Please support HB 111 and all its critical amendments.

Forcing ACS to subsidize its competitors is not competition. Please vote to support HB 111 and all its critical amendments.

Curt Dunham
ACS 4-wire board
Private Line Apprentice
564-5960

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Subject: HB111 with all critical amendments attached
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 08:57:06 -0800
From: "Bivins, Ellen" <ebivins@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

Dear Rep. McGuire,

I am an employee of Alaska Communications Systems and am writing you to ask that you support HB111 with all the critical amendments attached. As an employee of ACS, I have become more aware of the unfair competition between ACS and their competitors, specifically GCI. I have had a growing concern over this, and compare it to my purchasing my groceries at Carr's (representative of ACS), and paying for them at Fred Meyers (representative of the competition).

I understand thr reasons initially for the "subsidized" competition that the U.S. Government set up after breaking up Bell Telephone, however, in Alaska we have a pretty even split of customers between GCI and ACS, with ACS footing the entire expense for plant in the ground, subsidizing GCI for the use of our lines, which they charge their customers, and it is pure profit for them.

I have concerns regarding the continued financial health of the company I work for, and have concerns that the layoffs we have experienced to date will continue, if we do not see changes. I am asking that you support open and fair competition, ensure that we are able to lease our facilities at the real cost of those facilities, removing the unfair competition that currently exists in our state. If the bill passes without the critical amendments attached, it will be business as usual in the telecommunications industry in Alaska, and I fear the health of the company I work for will continue to plummet, and layoffs will increase. The employees of this company only want what is fair, and that is to have HB111 pass with all critical amendments attached.

Thank you for your time.

Ellen Bivins
Sr. Clerical Specialist
Field Services, Central District
564-1112 fax 563-0662
MS#18

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Subject: HB111 with all the amendments
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 09:01:27 -0800
From: "Naylor, Alisha L." <anaylor@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

I am a proud employee of Alaska Communications Systems and am writing you to ask that you support HB111 with all the amendments attached. As an employee of ACS, I have become more aware of the unfair competition between ACS and their competitors, specifically GCI. I have had a growing concern over this, and compare it to my purchasing my groceries at Carr's (representative of ACS), and paying for them at Fred Meyers (representative of the competition).

ACS should be allowed to compete by the same rules as GCI. For example, ACS should be allowed to bundle together regulated and unregulated services such as local, long distance, Internet and Wireless (the cable monopoly- GCI- has been able to do this for over seven years). I encourage you to support HB 111 and all its critical amendments.

What we have witnessed through full-page ads, radio spots, Internet sites, and political maneuvering is an attempt to maintain a structure, which requires ACS to subsidize its chief competitor, GCI, the cable monopolist. This subsidy takes root in lease rates that are a mere fraction of the true cost ACS has incurred. I encourage you to support HB 111 and all its critical amendments.

Would ACS raise its Local and/or Business Customer Rates by $100 million annually? Of course not. Such action by ACS would drive customers to the competition. ACS would raise its interconnection fees so that GCI was paying a compensatory rate for use of the ACS Network. This is competition at work.

When House Bill 111 as amended passes, Alaskan telecommunications consumers will have real competition for the first time. Competition which allows all service providers to offer their "best" deals because all the competing companies will be operating under the same set of rules on a level playing field.

As a voter in your district, I encourage you to represent my family and myself when you cast your vote on this important legislation. Please support HB 111 and all its critical amendments.

Forcing ACS to subsidize its competitors is not competition. Please vote to support HB 111 and all its critical amendments.

Alisha Naylor
564-1640
ACS Marketing

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Subject: Fwd: RCA
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 09:02:35 -0800
From: "Matthew Callahan" <matthewjcallahan@hotmail.com>
To: Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us

Hello, please do everything within your power to eliminate the unfair and unbalanced special treatments that GCI has been receiving from the RCA. *All communications service providors should receive equal treatment.* Under the guise of competition, GCI has persuaded the RCA to require other companies to sell them their services *at below costs* so that GCI can then resell it to customers. This severely undercuts these companies' ability to operate in the black. Fair competion is great, but subsidizing one company at the expense of others it not only obsurd, it is punitive, unfair, and restrictive to those companies and the customers they service. It is hendering new technological development and improvements because it is artificially removing profit/investment dollars from one company and shifting them to GCI. Please consider carefully all the facts when you make your votes on this issue. ***Please pass HB-111 with all critical ammendments***. Thank you, Matthew Callahan

---

Protect your PC - Click here for McAfee.com VirusScan Online

Subject: HB 111
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 09:05:26 -0800
From: "Nutting, Madeline M." <MNutting@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat
"'Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.sta
"'Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.s

Dear Fellow Alaskans,

I am very concerned with the House Bill 111. I am a proud ACS employee since 1999. I am hoping the HB111 passes with the amendments to level the playing field with the GCI competition. I have a long history of customer service in retail sales and in that environment there was competition daily, which is a given, but the vendors we dealt with gave purchasers similar costs/savings on the same product. However if there isn't "Fair competition", a company can suffer terribly! Won't you please allow this House Bill 111 to pass with all the amendments, so ACS can have a FAIR Chance at competition and not suffer any longer with having to lease facilities to GCI below ACS' cost?

I thank you for your attention to this matter!

Madeline Nutting
Customer Service Representative
459-6158

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Subject: HB 111
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 09:05:35 -0800
From: "Lesbo, Pam" <plesbo@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

Hello,
I have worked in the Telecommunications industry for many years and I find myself in a situation where my company is not allowed to compete....my job security, my retirement and my future is at stake. Please, please support HB 111 and all it's critical amendments.

ACS should be allowed to compete by the same rules as GCI. For example, ACS should be allowed to bundle together regulated and unregulated services such as local, long distance, Internet and Wireless (the cable monopoly - GCI - has been able to do this for over seven years). I encourage you to support HB 111 and all it's critical amendments.

What we have witnessed through full-page ads, radio spots, Internet sites and political maneuvering is an attempt to maintain a structure which requires ACS to subsidize it's chief competitor, GCI, the cable monopolist. This subsidy takes root in lease rates that are a mere fraction of the true cost ACS has incurred. I encourage you to support HB 111 and all it's critical amendments.

Would ACS raise it's Local and/or Business Customer Rates by $100 million annually? Of course not. Such action by ACS would drive customers to the competition. ACS would raise it's interconnection fees s' that GCI way paying a compensatory rate for use of the ACS Network. This is competition at work.

When House Bill 111 as amended passes, Alaskan telecommunications consumers will have real competition for the first time. Competition which allows all service providers to offer their "best" deals because all the competing companies will be operating under the same set of rules on a level playing field.

As a voter, I encourage you to represent my family and myself when you cast your vote on this important legislation. Please support HB 111 and all it's critical amendments.

Forcing ACS to subsidize it's competitors is not competition. Please vote to support HB 111 and all it's critical amendments.

Thank you,

Pam Lesbo
ACS/End User Billing
564-1713
plesbo@acsalaska.com

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Subject: HB 111
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 09:06:42 -0800
From: "Larsen, Robert" <rlarsen@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat
"'Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.sta
"'Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.sta
"'Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.s

I have lived in Alaska since 1968, when my Father was transferred with Continental Telephone to Manage all Continental properties in the state. His name was Ken Larsen and he was a powerful figure in the communication industry in his day. When he arrived in Alaska the communication industry was in a mess. 14 party lines were not uncommon and prices were out of control. Antiquated equipment dominated the market and one was lucky to be able to call "outside" and talk to friends and family. My Father died last month and left behind his legacy of building one of the most sophisticated networks in the world. But he too, died concerned about the state of the communications industry in Alaska. For too long GCI has been getting away with grand theft. They don't pay for any of the infrastructure yet capitalize on its placement. My Father believed in competition but knew that the word Competition to GCI was merely a marketing plow. My Father was never afraid of a good fight but only if it was a level playing field. He would be writing to you today and asking for you to support HB 111 WITH AMENDMENTS and put all the Utilities on a level playing field if he were still alive. I am writing for him today, no doubt from heaven, and asking that you please bring real competition to Alaska and pass this bill with amendments. I thank you in advance for your time. Bob Larsen

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Subject: [Fwd: HB111 PLEASE VOTE FOR THE AMENDMENTS]
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 09:13:18 -0800
From: Sue Gullufsen <Sue_Gullufsen@legis.state.ak.us>
Organization: Alaska State Legislature
To: Representative Lesil McGuire <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us>

Subject: HB111 PLEASE VOTE FOR THE AMENDMENTS
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 08:57:30 -0800
From: "Blair, Betsy" <bblair@acsalaska.com>
To: "'webmaster@legis.state.ak.us'" <webmaster@legis.state.ak.us>

Dear Lesil McGuire,

I implore you to really listen to the honest people that work at ACS and Chugach Electric and other utilities. I have lived here in Anchorage for 36 years. I am still raising my family of 3 children and not only need to keep my job, but more importantly, the city of Anchorage needs the city to have honest and fair people to run the Regulatory Commission. And as it stands, we are loosing money because it cost a lot more to make and keep the telephone lines than we are being paid. We are no longer the monopoly. Those rules were put in place when everything was deregulated. It was the beginning of a new time and new rules. Things have changed drastically. It is time to level the playing field. And make the rules even for all companies, Equal in competition . That's all we ask. FAIRNESS, HONESTY, AND INTEGREGITY. Please Senator, vote FOR THE AMENDMENT.. We are not special interest. We are being hurt and companies are able to use the extra monies to hurt us more.. There are a lot of people that work in these utilities and we need our jobs just like every one else.. We are not asking for more than we deserve. Fairness is what it is all about.. Thank you so much for your time and attention. I did see you on the news today. I was impressed. I can see you do believe and work hard to make things right, and fair.. I surely appreciate you for daring to believe in WHATS RIGHT. It takes a lot of courage and convection..

Appreciative and Sincerely
Betsy Blair

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Sue Gullufsen
Manager
Legislative Information & Teleconferencing
Legislative Affairs Agency

Subject: Please support the HB 111 with ALL amendments
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 09:21:23 -0800
From: "Reid, Susie" <sreid2@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat
"'Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.sta
"'Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.sta
"'Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.st

> The bread and butter of Telecommunications Companies is the front line-
> Customer Service.
>
>
>
> I am a former customer service representative and outside sales
> representative for GCI. My years at GCI were successful. I have a high
> respect for the company and especially for CEO Mr. Ron Duncan.
>
> In 2000 I was offered a position at ACS and accepted. With my experience
> at GCI I have been profoundly horrified in witnessing the relentless ways
> in which GCI has been allowed to operate so unfairly against ACS. My job
> at ACS allows me to witness first hand the GCI accounts that have
> accumulated at a rate that ACS has no chance of any fairness. I have
> emailed and spoken to countless individuals about my findings for over two
> years, regardless of my fears for ACS the accounts for GCI continue to
> build at a phenomenal rate.
>
> I have voiced my most favorable solution for ACS and have expressed it's
> urgency without any success. I am not about to let this company collapse
> without trying every avenue to have competetive fairness finally be
> delivered to ACS.
>
> Having worked at GCI on the front line, customer service, I learned first
> hand of the importance of giving excellent customer service. At GCI I
> heard over and over again from happy customers calling in of how wonderful
> it was to make one call or get one visit and being taken care of by one
> customer service representative. At the time GCI was open on the phones
> 24 hours a day, seven days a week. At GCI when a customer called in I
> could offer and sell all the GCI products which included cable/digital
> television, local and long distance phone service, internet service/ cable
> modem installation, phone cards, cell phone service and promotions. It
> was a customers delight to have all their questions answered with one
> representative and not having to wait lengthy hold times to be transferred
> from one department to another for each and every product, as is the case
> at ACS. ACS is not allowed, by law, to delight and satisfy the Anchorage
> consumers as GCI does and does with devastating consequences to ACS.
> Bottom line is: The laws need to change. The laws need to include ACS and
> AT&T. The laws need to become what is ethical and enhances the true
> meaning of Fair Competition. GCI is the first company in the United
> States to have created such a successful way of selling
> telecommunications. The ability for GCI to do so while ACS is forced to
> operate as the "old school".. one product, one representative, another
> transfer to another department for a second ACS product, and then a third
> and maybe a forth transfer for a higher monthly fee than GCI is due to the
> result of the current laws. GCI's extravagant advantages in the customer
> service arena and it's results is, in one word, criminal. The current
> laws have lifted GCI as the monopoly, forcing ACS to fail. This will soon
> lead to the devastation of hundreds of employees and their families.

> *There are so many issues like, cost for maintenance and so on that are hurting ACS. I want to focus on what I know first hand that leads GCI to success. GCI's customer service is a powerful telecommunications wheel that rolls thousands and thousands of ACS customers into their web of more affordable products. The products are more affordable because ACS is forced by law to have higher rates than GCI. The powerful tool of cross selling several products by one customer service representative is a consumers dream come true and ACS's nightmare of seeing the results of unfair competition.*
>
> *Please allow competition to begin at ACS's front line, change the laws that are leading to the collapse of ACS, a company that strives for competetive fairness for Alaska.*
>
Please Support the HB 111 with ALL amendments.
>
> *Susie Reid 907-564-1750*
> *Alaska Communications Systems*
> *Revenue Requirements*
>
>
>
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Subject: PLEASE SUPPORT HB111 WITH AMENDMENTS!!!!
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 09:25:52 -0800
From: "Sipin, Annabelle" <ASipin@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat
"'Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.sta
"'Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.sta
"'Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Max_Gruenberg@lelgis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Max_Gruenberg@lelgis.

As a member of the telecommunications industry workforce, I respectfully and strongly encourage you to support HB111 WITH ALL ITS CRITICAL AMENDMENTS. This will allow Alaskan telecommunications consumers the "best" deals because competing companies will be operating under the same set of rules on a level playing field.

Thank you.

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Subject: Support HB 111 "with amendments"
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 09:28:21 -0800
From: "Newlun, Amy S" <ANewlun@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

I am in support of house bill HB 111 "with amendments". Please vote accordingly. Thank you and I hope to continue to support you in the future.

Amy Newlun

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Subject: HB 111
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 13:29:53 -0400
From: "David Kelly" <dgkelly@att.net>
To: "The Honorable Lesil L. McGuire" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us>

David Kelly
3761 Chiniak Bay Drive
Anchorage, AK 99515

May 15, 2003

The Honorable Lesil L. McGuire
House of Representatives
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative McGuire:

My wife Cathy, my son Paul and I all support the passage of HB 0111. We feel it is long overdue. Please push for it's passage.

Thank You,

David Kelly

Sincerely,

David Kelly

Subject: FOR all Amendments Bill Hb 111
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 09:29:57 -0800
From: "Muller, Richard T." <rmuller@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat
"'Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.sta
"'Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.sta
"'Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.s
CC: "'upuha54@ptialaska.net'" <upuha54@ptialaska.net>,
"'richard.muller@acsalaska.net'" <richard.muller@acsalaska.net>

My name is Richard Muller. I have lived in Alaska all my life. I worked in the Telecommunications field for about 7 years now, three years with ACS.

This bill affects my lively hood along with over a thousand other Alaskans. I don't believe the regulations that are in place now are fair and equitable. ACS has lost 50% of the market place in Anchorage. If regulations don't change too even out the playing field so either player has an advantage, there are going to be a lot of people with out jobs and we are going to be back to a monopoly. ACS's hands are tied. Our competitor has the upper hand. It would be like if you owned a piece of commercial property and the mortgage was $3200.00 per mo. Then the government stepped in and ordered you to lease it out at $2500.00 per month. This is simple economics. You are not going to be in business very long.

If you would go to: http://biz.yahoo.com/e/1/g/gncma.html. I am sure you are aware that GCI has raised their cable rates to subsidize their local access.

I remember when there were two newspapers in Anchorage. The price of a newspaper was $.25. Placing newspaper ads was inexpensive. Right after the Times folded the price of the newspapers and ads double due to no competition.

This last Gubernatorial race we were all lied to. Our new Governor told us exactly what we wanted to hear so he would be elected. In the next election I will not be voting for him or his daughter. What he did was wrong. I believe that GCI is on their way to monopolizing the telephone-datacomunications market in Alaska. They are plastering the media with negative ad campaigns. People are being led with a carrot in front of their faces and are not seeing the whole picture. They are being fattened up for the kill. What do you think will happen to the economy in Anchorage with out those jobs? There will be a lot less expendable monies. Businesses will suffer. Real estate will suffer. The economy in Anchorage will come to a grinding halt.

I believe in my Democratic right to vote. I didn't realize how important voting is until I was in my mid 20's. Since then I have not missed voting at an election. I would appreciate your attention and support

Richard Muller
ACS
Voter ID 07361497
Private Line Testing Facilities
264-5960

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Subject: I support House Bill 111 WITH AMENDMENTS
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 09:31:13 -0800
From: "Revilla,Richard" <rrevilla@acsalaska.com>
To: Comm member <Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us>,
Comm member <Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us>,
Comm member <Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.state.ak.us>,
Comm member <Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us>,
Comm member <Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.state.ak.us>,
Comm member <Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.state.ak.us>,
"Comm member (E-mail)" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us>

Committee members,
As a registered voter in Alaska, I urgently petition you to support HB111 with ALL amendments. The regulated environment that exists now has NOT succeeded in creating a fair and level playing field for the respective companies involved. Currently, due to the clear advantage GCI has in this regulated environment, there is no incentive for ACS to introduce and install the latest telecommunication technology available since they would only be supporting the competitions customers. Everybody loses because of this. Let us also not forget that GCI already has monopolized the cable market and is seeking to do the same in the telephone market. This country and this state has always prided itself on being the Land of Equal Opportunity and I feel that to pass HB111 without all of the critical amendments is to not support what this country and state are all about.
Thank you
Richard J. Revilla

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Subject: SUPPORT HB 111 AND ALL ITS CRITICAL AMENDMENTS
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 09:33:46 -0800
From: "Erickson, Becky" <BERICKSO@acsalaska.com>
To: "'representative_lesil_mcguire@legis.state.ak.us'" <representative_lesil_mcguire@legis.state.ak.u
"'representative_tom_anderson@legis.state.ak.us'" <representative_tom_anderson@legis.state.ak
"'representative_dan_ogg@legis.state.ak.us'" <representative_dan_ogg@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'representative_jim_holm@legis.state.ak.us'" <representative_jim_holm@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'representative_ralph_samuels@legis.state.ak.us'" <representative_ralph_samuels@legis.state.ak
"'representative_les_gara@legis.state.ak.us'" <representative_les_gara@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'representative_max_gruenberg@legis.state.ak.us'" <representative_max_gruenberg@legis.state

As a voter, worker, family person in the State Of Alaska, I encourage you to represent my family and myself when you cast your vote on this important legislation. Please Support HB 111 and all its critical amendments.

I have been employed in telecommunications since 1985 (ATU that is now ACS). It is embarrassing to arrive at a GCI customers establishment to install new service or to fix a phone problem and the customer chastises you for being a ACS employee. We explain the situation that ACS owns the service lines and does all the repairs for the lines GCI leases.

If GCI had to design, build and maintain their own property then and only then would Alaskan telecommunications consumers have real competition for the first time. Competition which allows all service providers to offer their "best" deals because all the competing companies will be operating under the same set of rules on a level playing field.

Forcing ACS to subsidize its competitors is not competition. Please support HB 111 and all its critical amendments.

Becky Erickson
ACS OSP Construction & Splicing
564-1056 office
244-0173 cellular

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Subject: HB111 with all critical amendments attached
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 09:35:59 -0800
From: bivins@acsalaska.net
To: Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.state.ak.us, Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us, Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.state.ak.us, Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us, Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us, Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.state.ak.us, Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us

Dear Representatives,

My wife is an employee of Alaska Communications Systems and I am writing you to ask that you support HB111 with all the critical amendments attached. We have become more aware of the unfair and double standard competition between ACS and their competitors, specifically GCI.

I understand the reasons initially for the "subsidized" competition that the U.S. Government set up after breaking up Bell Telephone, however, in Alaska the competition is stiff between GCI and ACS, and because ACS is unable to compete fairly and evenly, we have been unable to provide the kind of service our competitors are allowed to provide. ACS is currently unable to bundle service as their competitor is able to do. The current split of customers is around 50%, and ACS is required to subsidize GCI with the use of their facilities at a reduced price.

I have concerns regarding the continued financial health of the company my wife work for, and have concerns that the layoffs that the company has experienced to date will continue, if we do not see changes. I am asking that you support open and fair competition, ensure that ACS is able to lease their facilities at the real cost of those facilities, removing the unfair competition that currently exists in our state. If the bill passes without the critical amendments attached, it will be business as usual in the telecommunications industry in Alaska, and I fear the health of the company my wife works for will continue to plummet, and layoffs will increase. Our family and the employees of this company only want what is fair, and that is to have HB111 pass with all critical amendments attached.

Thank you for your time.
Gary Bivins

Subject: PLEASE SUPPORT BILL HB 111
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 09:37:16 -0800
From: "Hall, Beverly O." <BHall@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

I have worked for ACS & previous owners for 26 years now. Because my company-ACS is not allowed to compete .. my job and retirement are at stake.
I support bill HB 111 and all its critical amendments .& i ask for your support to get this bill passed .Acs should be allowed to compete by the same rules as our competor-GCI . We should be allowed to bundle together regulated & unregulated services as local service, long distance , internet & wireless, which GCI has been doing for over seven years. they have the monolpy on cable ..
I ask that you SUPPORT HB 111 AND ALL ITS CRITICAL AMENDMENTS , IT IS SO IMPORTANT TO THE FUTURE OF ACS . We are the most highly skilled workforce in the state and we can compete with anyone, if we are given a fair playing field.

PLEASE, PLEASE SUPPORT HB 111 & ALL ITS CRITICAL AMENDMENTS
THANK YOU ....
Beverly Hall

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Subject: Give us a chance! Make it fair... I support HB111 and all its a mendments!
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 09:37:27 -0800
From: "Estep, Pamela" <pestep@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

How about letting ACS develop a cable television customer base and lease GCI equipment for pennies, which would enable us to provide ACS cable television service to OUR customers at a much lower cost of service than GCI could provide? Do you think GCI could stay in the cable business if they had to foot the bill to maintain all the equipment necessary to provide service to their customers AND ours? This is exactly the scenario in regard to the telecom side of our relationship with GCI. They lease our equipment for pennies, which enables them charge their customers less which, of course, brings them more customers for less money!

Pam Estep
ACS Payroll
907.564.1552

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Subject: HB 111
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 09:37:33 -0800
From: "Wilke, Patrick" <Pat.Wilke@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

Dear Representative Lesil McGuire

I have worked in the Telecommunications industry for many years and I find myself in a situation where my company is not allowed to compete.... my job security, retirement, and my children's future are at stake. Please support HB 111 and all its critical amendments.

ACS should be allowed to compete by the same rules as GCI. For example, ACS should be allowed to bundle together regulated and unregulated services such as local, long distance, Internet and Wireless (the cable monopoly- GCI- has been able to do this for over seven years). I encourage you to support HB 111 and all its critical amendments.

What we have witnessed through full-page ads, radio spots, Internet sites, and political maneuvering is an attempt to maintain a structure, which requires ACS to subsidize its chief competitor, GCI, the cable monopolist. This subsidy takes root in lease rates that are a mere fraction of the true cost ACS has incurred. I encourage you to support HB 111 and all its critical amendments.

Would ACS raise its Local and/or Business Customer Rates by $100 million annually? Of course not. Such action by ACS would drive customers to the competition. ACS would raise its interconnection fees so that GCI was paying a compensatory rate for use of the ACS Network. This is competition at work.

When House Bill 111 as amended passes, Alaskan telecommunications consumers will have real competition for the first time. Competition which allows all service providers to offer their "best" deals because all the competing companies will be operating under the same set of rules on a level playing field.

As a voter in your district, I encourage you to represent my family and myself when you cast your vote on this important legislation. Please support HB 111 and all its critical amendments.

Forcing ACS to subsidize its competitors is not competition. Please vote to support HB 111 and all its critical amendments.

Patrick Wilke

Engineer

ACS Wireless & Messaging

600 Telephone Ave. MS#28

Anchorage, Ak 99503

pat.wilke@acsalaska.com

Ofc: 907.564.8012

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Subject: HB111 With Amendments
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 09:38:12 -0800
From: "Ketchum, Judy" <JKETCHUM@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat
"'Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.sta
"'Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.sta
"'Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.s

I have worked here at Alaska Communications Systems for 17 years. I have seen several changes take place in the telecommunications field. I find myself in a situation where my company isn't allowed to compete in a fair market and that my job, retirement, and children's future are at stake. I am hoping that I can get your support on HB111 with the critical amendments to ensure that we have a fair competitive market in telecommunication to work with now. It is imperative that this HB111 with the amendments passes to keep competition out there in the market fair for everyone.

ACS is NOT going to raise rates to the Local or Business Customers as such action like this would cause our customers to go to the competition where there is a more reasonable rate. This passing HB111 with the Amendments will help us to raise the interconnection fees so that GCI or any other competitor out in the market would pay compensatory rates for the use of the ACS Network. I feel like this would keep the competition in the playing field and not allow it to get so one sided. Forcing ACS to subsidize its competitors is not competition.

If you support and pass the HB111 with all the critical amendments attached it, it will finally allow ACS to bundle some of the packages as GCI does now, to allow our customers that are loyal to us and new customers that we obtain, to be able to receive special package offers. We can give them the same service that GCI has been able to give for the last seven years.

As a voter in your district, I hope to encourage you to represent my family and myself as you are casting your vote on the HB111 with the amendments.

Please Support HB111 And Its Critical Amendments

Judy Ketchum
CABS Billing Specialist

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Subject: HB111
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 09:38:45 -0800
From: "Dicaprio, Wendy" <WDICAPRI@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

Please support this bill with all its critical amendments.
I have worked in telecommunications industry for 28 years and firmly believe that ACS should be allowed to compete by the same rules as GCI. For example, ACS should be allowed to bundle together regulated and unregulated services such as local, long distance, Internet and Wireless (the cable monopoly- GCI- has been able to do this for over seven years).

What we have witnessed through full-page ads, radio spots, Internet sites, and political maneuvering is an attempt to maintain a structure, which requires ACS to subsidize its chief competitor, GCI, the cable monopolist. This subsidy takes root in lease rates that are a mere fraction of the true cost ACS has incurred.

GCI is constantly complaining that these amendments will cause telephone rates to skyrocket. They are the ones who might have to raise rates when they have to start paying ACS a fair price for the facilities they are using.

When House Bill 111 (as amended) passes, Alaskan telecommunications consumers will have real competition for the first time. Competition which allows all service providers to offer their "best" deals because all the competing companies will be operating under the same set of rules on a level playing field.

Sincerely,
Wendy DiCaprio

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Subject: HB111
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 09:42:10 -0800
From: "Urias, Richard G." <RUrias@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

Dear Representative McGuire

I am a 32 year resident and voter from Sitka. I am married and have 5 children, 4 of whom were born and raised in Sitka. I am also a 27 year employee of the local telephone company ACS. The passage of HB 111 without the critical amendments will continue to cripple the company I work for in the competitive telephone market. Although Sitka and most other communities in Southeast have not been affected by the introduction of competition in the local phone market I have seen first hand how it has affected the building and maintaining of the infrastructure critical to providing the quality and state of the art phone service that our state enjoys. The loss of revenue from services that are given to our competition at rates that are far below what it costs for us to maintain is not what competition is all about. If the RCA is to continue along its present course I fear for the jobs of my co-workers both here in Sitka and all over the state of Alaska. Again I urge you to support HB111 and critical amendments attached so that the incumbent local service provider can be free to compete in the telephone market. ACS must be able to market its products without the regulatory confines that are not placed on our competition.
Thanks for your time.
Sincerely
Richard Urias
511 Verstovia
Sitka, Alaska 99835

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Subject: Please support HB111 with amendments, here why:
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 09:42:25 -0800
From: "Anderson, N. (Keith)" <keith.anderson@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat
"'Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.sta
"'Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.sta
"'Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.s

Dear Honored House Judiciary Committee members:

I'll admit I don't usually take the time to write or contact you when an issue sparks controversy or indirectly affects me so it's with a sense of shameless self-preservation that I write to you today. To start with, I'm an ACS employee represented by the IBEW so I'm used to the ground being shaky with all the buyouts and cutbacks the company has gone through over the last 5 years. I started with MUS in Fairbanks, then it became PTI, then Centurytel and then of course, ACS which really amounted to a merger with ATU. With each change in ownership, management and corporate culture, there was plenty of uncertainty concerning my job and my future but it pales in comparison to the uncertainty we employees of ACS now face if HB111 passes without the amendments which apply to fair competition in the Alaska telecommunications market. ACS is being forced to subsidize GCI by having to lease our network to them below cost and that is driving this company toward bankruptcy. When they take out full page ads saying we want the bill to pass so that we can raise the rates, how many customers do think we'd keep? We only want to be able to raise the rate of the lines we lease to GCI or other CLECs to offset the cost it takes to maintain and improve upon the network we have. If it gets worse, and it will if this bill as amended does not go through, we may be looking at another round of layoffs affecting a significant number of Alaskan families (there's about 1150 of us at this point.) If ACS does go to bankruptcy, that puts the union in jeopardy as well. All labor contracts could go to renegotiation or be thrown out the window completely. As HB111 and the amendments we need to survive come across your desk for consideration please think about the effects this vital piece of legislation will have on the lives, jobs and livelihood of your constituency. I'm all for competition, ACS is even on the record requesting it when we had a majority of the market, it just seems that the cost of doing business should be taken into consideration when the RCA or APUC tells us what the rates have to be. As it is now, the set pricing is not a fair price in ACS employees will have to bear that cost in loss of jobs, income and whatever comes with that. Let's say ACS has a lemonade stand: ACS has built the counter and bought sugar, lemons, cups and even ice. Let's say the total outlay was $5 and we can make 5 gallons so it costs $1 a gallon total. We sell our lemonade for 25 cents a cup. Along comes GCI and they set up a stand nearby and they get the Lemonade Commission to say that ACS has to sell lemons, cups and ice to GCI at a cut rate price so that they too can compete in the lemonade market because apparently, ACS has all the sugar, lemons, cups and ice. So ACS has to sell our materials to GCI for say $2.00 then that leave ACS with $3.00 worth of materials and we're left to compete with GCI and this arrangement while they sell their lemonade for 15 cents a cup. So, we're left with a situation where GCI is both getting their lemonade supplies for way under cost so this gives them low enough overhead to charge less for their lemonade thus swaying customers that don't want to pay 25 cents when they could pay 15 cents so at every step in this process, ACS is making less and less money and it's to the point where ACS can't afford sugar, lemons and cups anymore. Does this really make sense? I just want to conclude by asking that you rate this situation in your mind on scale of fairness from 1 to 10. If it's fair by all means, give it a 10 and vote HB111 as is. If you can see any part of this scenario that places an iota of

doubt that the playing field is level and all is fair in the lemonade market of Alaska then rating a 9 or below should prompt you to vote your conscience and allow HB111 to be amended to provide fair competition in the telecommunications market of Alaska. Otherwise the moral to this story will be "when life gives you lemons, you can't always make lemonade, you have to sell them to another guy so he can make lemonade cheaper than you and put you out of business." Don't let this happen. The futures of too many telecommunication industry workers are in your hands in this matter as well as the integrity of the network and services we help maintain and provide to our communities will dwindle and the negative impact on Alaska's already-enfeebled economy will be felt. I appreciate you taking the time to read this and weigh the fairness of HB111 as written versus the amendments that will allow the industry to grow and allow mutual co-existence between the competing companies and a choice for consumers without giving one company such an over-whelming advantage over the other. Please vote for HB111 with proposed amendments.

Thank you,

N. Keith Anderson

PC Support Technician at ACS

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Subject: HB 111
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 13:45:24 -0400 (EDT)
From: "Pat McGraw" <p.mcgraw@excite.com>

I have worked in Communications my whole life. I find my job security threatened by the unfair competition of GCI. ACS should not be required to subsidize its competition. This truly discourages growth and investment in new technologies. In the last few years I have seen this first hand. If we truly want Alaska to have the best of the new technologies it will take investing in the future. It cannot be done when there is no margin for profit. Please support HB 111 and ALL the critical amendments.

Sincerely,
Neil P. McGraw

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Subject: HB111
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 09:46:03 -0800
From: "Jackie Endsley" <jendsley@Ibew1547.org>
To: <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us>,
<Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.state.ak.us>,
<Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us>, <Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us>,
<Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.state.ak.us>,
<Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us>,
<Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.state.ak.us>

To the Legislature,

I am in favor of House Bill 111 WITH AMENDMENTS. I truly believe there is NOT a level playing field in regard to the competition between ACS and GCI and I believe this bill help to alleviate this problem.

Jackie Endsley
18028 Sanctuary Drive
Eagle River, AK 99577
(907) 694-9109 home
(907) 777-7257 work

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Subject: Please support HB111 and amendments.
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 09:47:45 -0800
From: "Hollenbeck, Steve" <SHollenb@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat
"'Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.sta
"'Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.s

>
>
> *Dear Sir:*
> *The RCA has unfairly given every advantage it can to GCI and that is*
> *breaking the back of ACS. I am sure every consumer could care less if ACS*
> *goes broke just as long as they get cheap dial tone. ACS work force has*
> *been reduced from around 2000 employee's in 1988 to 1125 today and that is*
> *still not enough for ACS to be profitable, (look at the stock price).*
> *That's a lot of good paying jobs lost, tax payers and voters. In this*
> *environment ACS does not have enough money nor has enough personnel to*
> *expand our telephone facilities for new growth, especially with GCI with*
> *their low interconnection fees waiting to take the customer after our*
> *investment has been made. Let's make the playing field level.*
> *As of this time our company has not taken the fight to the public as GCI*
> *has, so I am doing my part for you to understand our needs. Feel free to*
> *contact me if you would like to discuss this issue from an ACS employee*
> *point of view.*
> *Let's make the playing field level, please support HB111 and all it's*
> *critical amendments. Thank You*
>
> *Steve Hollenbeck*
> *OSP Engineer II*
> *ACS communications*
> *tel: 907-459-6474*
> *fax: 907-459-6460*
> *e-mail: shollenb@acsalaska.com*
>
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Subject: HB111 With Amendments
Date: Thu. 15 May 2003 09:52:36 -0800
From: "Herman, Victoria" <VHerman@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

I was born and raised in Fairbanks, Alaska. My family has lived and worked in this great State for over sixty years.
I am a single mother raising an eight year old daughter by myself. I currently work in the Telecommunications industry, and I find myself in a situation where my company is not allowed to compete.... my job security, retirement, and my child's future are at stake.

ACS should be allowed to compete by the same rules as GCI. For example, ACS should be allowed to bundle together regulated and unregulated services such as local, long distance, Internet, and Wireless (the cable monopoly- GCI- has been able to do this for over seven years). What we have witnessed through full-page ads, radio spots, Internet sites, and political maneuvering, is an attempt to maintain a structure which requires ACS to subsidize its chief competitor, GCI, the cable monopolist. This subsidy takes root in lease rates that are a mere fraction of the true cost ACS has incurred.

We are not afraid of competition. We are the most highly skilled workforce in the state and we can compete with anyone, just give us a fair playing field. Forcing ACS to subsidize its competitors is not competition. As a voter in your district, I encourage you to represent my family and myself when you cast your vote on this important legislation. Please support HB 111 and all its critical amendments.

<><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><>
Victoria Herman
Alaska Communications Systems
Customer Service
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<<...OLE_Obj...>>
"A people that values its privileges above its principles soon loses both."
- Dwight D. Eisenhower (1890-1969), Inaugural Address, January 20, 1953

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Subject: PLEASE SUPPORT THE HB111 AMENDMENTS
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 09:53:27 -0800
From: "Brown, Tana" <tbrown@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

I AM IN SUPPORT OF THE HB111 AMENDMENTS AND HOPE THAT YOU CAMPAIGN TO HAVE THIS AMENDMENT PASSED. I AM AN ALASKAN VOTER AND RESIDE IN ANCHORAGE. AS A US CITIZEN I BELIEVE IN EQUAL AND FAIR COMPETITION FOR ALL. WITHOUT THIS AMENDMENT BEING PASSED THERE IS NOTHING EQUAL AND FAIR WITH THE WAY THINGS ARE DONE NOW. WHILE GCI IS ABLE TO GIVE $3,000.00 BONUSES TO THEIR EMPLOYEES, ACS IS BEING BEATEN INTO THE GROUND IN EVERY WAY IMAGINABLE.

THANK YOU

TANA BROWN

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Subject: SUPPORT HB111 WITH ALL AMENDMENTS
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 13:55:10 -0400
From: "Karel Shaw" <karel@acsalaska.net>
To: "The Honorable Lesil L. McGuire" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us>

Karel Shaw
2334 Marian Bay Cir
Anchorage, AK 99515

May 15, 2003

The Honorable Lesil L. McGuire
House of Representatives
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative McGuire:

SCENARIO:

I have a first class shoe store called Happy Feet for 80 years.

Federal law says, oh no, you have a monopoly.

You must offer competition, and oh by the way, you need to make room in your store for BOBO Marcus to come in and sell your shoes. They can also buy your shoes at below cost & sell them to the public cheaper.

And oh by the way, if you want to have a sale you need to file for an OK. In the meantime, since BOBO can do what they want (because BOBO needs no OK's from anyone), they've already had the sale and sold at below cost ALL my shoes!!

And oh by the way, they can have access to your cash register & customer data base but you need to pay for the building, the utilities, the buyers and any new inventory.

And oh by the way, BOBO can accelerate their depreciation over 12 years but HAPPY needs to depreciate over 30 years.

LUDICROUS, STUPID, RIDICULOUS you bet it is!!!!!!!!!!!!

But exactly the way RCA treats ACS.

FAIR COMPETITION.....NOT REGULATION

PLEASE SUPPORT HB 111 WITH ALL AMENDMENTS

KAREL SHAW
2334 MARIAN BAY CIR
ANCHORAGE, AK 99515
907-522-5251

Sincerely,

Karel Shaw

Subject: Support HB 111 with amendments
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 10:08:04 -0800
From: "Powell, Justin C." <jpowell@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

I have worked in the Telecommunications industry for several years and I find the current situation to be in a downward spiral. The current regulations attempting to promote competition are destroying the infrastructures they are supposed to be creating. Instead of building new facilities and upgrading services the ILEC, ACS is afraid to spend their capital. There is no guarantee that ACS will ever get a return on their investment if GCI can simply do as they please in leasing these lines at a substantially reduced rate. GCI has even less incentive to invest in the infrastructure if they can make ACS maintain and install all their facilities then simply sit back and collect their money.

To have fair competition both sides should play by the same rules. There is no reason that GCI should get special treatment by the RCA. They continue to badmouth ACS about being a monopoly that only wants to raise rates, while they themselves are the largest monopoly cable provider in Alaska. I'd like to see the RCA regulate cable TV prices and let ACS lease GCI's cable network and see what happens. If GCI truly wants competition and not just a subsidy than lets pass HB 111 with all its essential amendments and let competition begin to work.

Justin Powell
Fairbanks, Alaska
(907)479-1214

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To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Rachael E Herman-Timmons and I'm an ACS Employee. I have been here in Fairbanks, Alaska for 28 years, born and raised. My experience with ACS has been the greatest working experience I have ever had. I'm worried that with the unreasonable control over ACS by the RCA my job security is at stake. I can't see how ACS can survive when other competitors are not paying their fair share to use the network ACS builds and maintains.

When House Bill 111 passes Alaskans will have real competition for the first time. Competition which allows all service providers to offer their "best" deals because all competing companies will be operating under the same set of rules.

As a supporter I ask you to represent my family and myself when you cast your vote on this important legislation. Please support HB 111 and all its vital amendments.

Thank you for your time in this matter.

Rachael E Herman-Timmons
Customer Service Representative

Subject: Please support HB 111 and all of its critical amendments
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 10:23:35 -0800
From: "Rasmussen, Philene M." <PRasmuss@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

I came to ACS in July of 1999. By taking this job I was able continue to live in my home town which I love dearly. Alaska is the kind of State that makes you feel secure and a place that I am proud to raise my family. Before I started working for ACS I had no idea of the kind of competition between the phone companies in Alaska. Or what incumbent and CLEC meant. After working for ACS over the past year I have become very familiar with what goes on behind the scenes that our average customer does not know. GCI might be the CLEC in Alaska, but they are fairly big out side of the Alaska. ACS is owned and ran in Alaska. If you were to look behind our logo you would see a sticker that said made in Alaska. You can't find that in GCI. I hear the question brought up all the time "how can we help Fairbanks and Alaska continue to grow" I have the answer, by having companies such as ACS. ACS is not just a company that only cares about making money, like some of our competitors. ACS is also a tight nit family orientated company. That supports it's employee & offers great benefits. The kind of benefits that help us stay in Alaska which is becoming more and more expensive to live in each year. Please don't get me wrong competition is also good, but only when it's fair. For years ACS has suffered for being the incumbent phone provider. With unfair rulings. This question keep coming up in my head. Why does ACS a company that supports Alaskan jobs & families continue to be punished. I strongly feel if the support for HB 111 and it's amendments don't happen, it will begin to cripple ACS. Is this the kind of statement our Legislator wants to project. That we should all bend over back wards to help companies like GCI and continue to get them the upper hand? What do they really give back to Alaska?? I know that ACS keeps jobs in Alaska which in the long run continues the flow of money back into our State. I truly think that if we don't start making amendments to some of the bills that will allow fair compaction it will jeopardize my job security and other ACS employees. Which in the long run will hurt our children more. I don't want to see that happen. I would like nothing more than to continue to live in Alaska. And know that when my children are grown, they also will have the chance to make Alaska their permanent home. Thank you for your time in reading my email and please truly look at what the cost would be if no amendments were to be made. Alaska can only remain strong if job jobs are available to the people.

Thank you
Philene Rasmussem

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Subject: **Please support HB111 with Amended proposal by Tim Anderson**
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 10:20:09 -0800
From: gilbertc@acsalaska.net
To: "Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state
CC: "Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us" <Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us>

When Arliss Sturgulewski on a GCI ad., saying about special interest groups. Who are the special interests group here Arliss? Arliss is saying something that most people don't know what she is saying here. GCI don't have to phone cable lines and they are paying less than other for the use of that cable.

ACS has to share its products and services with competing companies like GCI, and this will encourage companies like ACS to spend on capital projects to improve advanced deployment of advanced telecommunications equipment to service Alaskans. This actually discourages companies like ACS to invest on NEW advanced telecommunications equipment to service Alaskans because ACS would have to share this NEW technology with competing companies like GCI, AT&T and TelAlaska and ACS would not a good return on their investment. Companies like GCI, do not have to invest on any capital projects and advanced telecommunications equipment to service Alaskans because they can get it from ACS for below cost. So why should ACS invest on anything. Your in business to make money, not share investments. Who ends up suffering? We Alaskans, the public.

Please support HB111 with Amended proposal by Tim Anderson

Gilbert Carrillo
8301 Majestic Dr
Anchorage, Ak 99504

Subject: HB111 and SB72
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 10:37:23 -0800
From: "Starett, Cindy" <CSTARETT@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat
"'Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.sta
"'Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.sta
"'Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.s

I have worked in the Telecommunications industry for several years and I find myself in a situation where my company is not allowed to compete.... my job security, retirement, and my children's future are at stake. Please support HB 111 and SB 72 and all its critical amendments.

ACS should be allowed to compete by the same rules as GCI. For example, ACS should be allowed to bundle together regulated and unregulated services such as local, long distance, Internet and Wireless (the cable monopoly- GCI- has been able to do this for over seven years). What we have witnessed through full-page ads, radio spots, Internet sites, and political maneuvering is an attempt to maintain a structure, which requires ACS to subsidize its chief competitor, GCI, the cable monopolist. This subsidy takes root in lease rates that are a mere fraction of the true cost ACS has incurred. Would ACS raise its Local and/or Business Customer Rates by $100 million annually? Of course not. Such action by ACS would drive customers to the competition. ACS would raise its interconnection fees so that GCI was paying a compensatory rate for use of the ACS Network. This is competition at work.

When House Bill 111 as amended passes, Alaskan telecommunications consumers will have real competition for the first time. Competition which allows all service providers to offer their "best" deals because all the competing companies will be operating under the same set of rules on a level playing field.

Forcing ACS to subsidize its competitors is not competition. Please vote to support HB 111 and all its critical amendments.

Cindy Starett
1918 North Salem Loop
Anchorage Alaska 99508
907-561-8539

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Subject: HB111 and SB72
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 10:37:23 -0800
From: "Starett, Cindy" <CSTARETT@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat
"'Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.sta
"'Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.sta
"'Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.s

I have worked in the Telecommunications industry for several years and I find myself in a situation where my company is not allowed to compete.... my job security, retirement, and my children's future are at stake. Please support HB 111 and SB 72 and all its critical amendments.

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Subject: AMENDMENT HB-111
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 10:38:57 -0800
From: "Walton, Vanessa" <VWalton@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

I'm asking you to back this amendment. I am an employee of ACS and if this fails alot of people could be out of jobs. I am a long time Alaskan, single parent. Thank you for your consideration.

Thanks
Vanessa Walton

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Subject: HB 111 (WITH AMENDMENTS)
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 10:40:15 -0800
From: "Liebe, Brooke E" <Bliebe@acsalaska.com>
To: "'representative_lesil_mcguire@legis.state.ak.us'" <representative_lesil_mcguire@legis.state.ak.u

May 15, 2003

Dear House Representative Lesil McGuire,

I have been an employee of ACS for 2 years now, I am 22 years old and I plan to stay with this company until I am able to retire. If you do the calculations you will clearly see that I still have many, many years ahead of me before that day will come. Unfortunately my dreams of having job security, a retirement to look forward to and an income to support my family are all at stake right now because the company that I work for is not being opted a fair chance to compete. Please support HB 111 with amendments.

It is impossible for ACS to survive as a company when GCI is operating under a completely different set of rules. ACS cannot compete with a company that is able to bundle together regulated and unregulated services thus offering lower prices to their customers. Due to this, ACS customers are none other than driven to the competition for this very reason. All that ACS asks is that GCI pay a compensated rate for use of the ACS network. This would be equal competition to both companies.

When House Bill 111 as amended passes, the consumers of ACS will finally have real competition for the first time. Competition which allows all service providers to offer their "best" deals because all the competing companies will be in operation under the same set of rules on a level playing field.

I am a registered voter here in Alaska and I strongly urge you to represent my family and myself when you cast your vote on this so very important legislation.
Forcing ACS to subsidize its competitors is not competition. Please support HB 111 and all its critical amendments.

Sincerely,

Brooke E. Liebe

bliebe@acsalaska.com

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Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 10:40:15 -0800
From: "Liebe, Brooke E" <Bliebe@acsalaska.com>
To: "'representative_lesil_mcguire@legis.state.ak.us'" <representative_lesil_mcguire@legis.state.ak.u

May 15, 2003

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When House Bill 111 as amended passes, the consumers of ACS will finally have real competition for the first time. Competition which allows all service providers to offer their "best" deals because all the competing companies will be in operation under the same set of rules on a level playing field.

I am a registered voter here in Alaska and I strongly urge you to represent my family and myself when you cast your vote on this so very important legislation.
Forcing ACS to subsidize its competitors is not competition. Please support HB 111 and all its critical amendments.

Sincerely,

Brooke E. Liebe

bliebe@acsalaska.com

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Subject: HB111
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 10:41:02 -0800
From: "Lewis, Lori" <Lori.Lewis@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

I have worked in the Telecommunications industry for many years and I find myself in a situation where my company is not allowed to compete.... my job security, retirement, and my children's future are at stake. ACS should be allowed to compete by the same rules as GCI. For example, ACS should be allowed to bundle together regulated and unregulated services such as local, long distance, Internet and Wireless. GCI- has been able to do this for over seven years.

When House Bill 111 as amended passes, Alaskan telecommunications consumers will have real competition for the first time. Competition which allows all service providers to offer their "best" deals because all the competing companies will be operating under the same set of rules on a level playing field.

Forcing ACS to subsidize its competitors is not competition. Please vote to support HB 111 and all its critical amendments.

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Subject: HB111 with amendments
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 10:40:41 -0800
From: "Inskeep, Sherry" <sinskeep@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

I have worked in the Telecommunications industry for many years and I find myself in a situation where my company is not allowed to compete.... my job security, retirement, and my children's future are at stake. Please support HB 111 and all its critical amendments.

ACS should be allowed to compete by the same rules as GCI. For example, ACS should be allowed to bundle together regulated and unregulated services such as local, long distance, Internet and Wireless (the cable monopoly- GCI- has been able to do this for over seven years). I encourage you to support HB 111 and all its critical amendments.

What we have witnessed through full-page ads, radio spots, Internet sites, and political maneuvering is an attempt to maintain a structure, which requires ACS to subsidize its chief competitor, GCI, the cable monopolist. This subsidy takes root in lease rates that are a mere fraction of the true cost ACS has incurred. I encourage you to support HB 111 and all its critical amendments.

Would ACS raise its Local and/or Business Customer Rates by $100 million annually? Of course not. Such action by ACS would drive customers to the competition. ACS would raise its interconnection fees so that GCI was paying a compensatory rate for use of the ACS Network. This is competition at work.

When House Bill 111 as amended passes, Alaskan telecommunications consumers will have real competition for the first time. Competition which allows all service providers to offer their "best" deals because all the competing companies will be operating under the same set of rules on a level playing field.

Thank you very much for your time
Sherry Inskeep

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Subject: HB 111 WITH AMENDMENTS
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 10:47:49 -0800
From: "Reese, Donna" <DReese@acsalaska.com>

Please SUPPORT HB 111 WITH AMENDMENTS.

I encourage you to represent me, my family, and my friends when you cast your vote on HB111. I urge you to SUPPORT HB111 along with the original critical amendments.

I am for FAIR competition for Alaska telecommunications companies; however feel very strongly that ACS has not received this fair treatment by the RCA. I have worked in the telecommunications industry for the past 13 years and have seen many changes, both good and bad. One of the saddest most unfair change I have watched materialize over the past years are the unfair rulings by the RCA which regulates stringent restrictive rulings over ACS but not to GCI. Thus, ACS has been seriously handicapped in being able to compete and offer our customers more competitive services and prices which GCI continues to be able to enjoy, and to offer our local communities.

In the past years, ACS staff, our families, and our friends have witnessed through full-page ads, radio spots, internet sites, and political arenas an attempt to maintain a structure, which requires ACS to subsidize its chief competitor... GCI. GCI who truly is the cable monopolist. This subsidy takes root in lease rates that are a mere fraction of the true cost that ACS has incurred.

Again, I urge you to SUPPORT HB111 along WITH AMENDMENTS. By doing so, you will be supporting hundreds of local Alaskans and their families by not only helping to guarantee our job security, but also by truly allowing for fair competition within Alaska. Thank you for your support.

Donna Reese
2297 Outside Blvd.
North Pole, Alaska 99705
907-488-3721 HM
907-459-6461 WK
>
>
>
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Subject: support HB111 with amendments
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 10:45:52 -0800
From: "Merry, Heather" <Heather.Merry@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

As a worker in the telecommunications industry, I am concerned with the issue of the RCA and the possibility of not passing HB111 with amendments. When ACS is required to lease its facilities at a fraction of the cost to maintain them, competition does not exist. When the RCA requires ACS to build new facilities to maintain GCI lines, how can ACS compete? The cost is falling on ACS, rather than the users of the facilities, GCI. ACS should be allowed to compete and function by the same rules as GCI. When House Bill 111 as amended passes, Alaskan telecommunications consumers will have real competition for the first time. Competition which allows all service providers to offer their "best" deals because all the competing companies will be operating under the same set of rules on a level playing field. For the sake of jobs, work ethics, and industry competition (if the RCA would allow fair competition) the Alaskan industry could only benefit from passing HB111 and all of its amendments.
My family's livelihood depends on passing HB111 with amendments as written. My husband and I are both in the telecommunications industry and if the bill does not pass, it could affect our well being drastically.
Forcing ACS to subsidize its competitors is not competition.
I encourage you to represent my family and myself when you cast your vote on this important legislation. Please support HB111 and all its critical amendments.

Heather Merry
Alaska Communications Systems
600 Telephone Ave
Anchorage, AK 99503
hmerry@acsalaska.com
907-564-1001
907-564-1678 fax

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Subject: HB111 with Amendments
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 10:59:05 -0800
From: "Morris, Dennis L" <DMORRIS@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

I have lived in Alaska for 44 years and have been in the telecommunications industry for over 28 years and would like to take a little of your time to let you know how I feel about HB111. I would like to let you know that I believe this bill with all the existing amendments is crucial for this state to build a modern and viable telecommunications network. GCI has been treated like something special since the day they started to compete with Alascom in the long distance market. We need to have fair competition, not one company making its profits to the determent of another. GCI is attempting to put a spin on this in the newspaper and radio that we shouldn't bow to last minute "special interest" amendments. GCI and their push to kill the amendments is to only real "special interest" in this mess and confirms this with the untold thousands of dollars spent on their add campaigns. GCI is the only monopoly left in this state with their cable company.

The ILEC is only asking to be given the same rules that GCI is working under. Some examples are:

1. GCI is able to depreciate their investment over 12 years; ACS is forced to use 30 years.
2. GCI can bundle all of their services together any way they want, ACS can not bundle regulated and deregulated items and need to get a tariff approved which GCI usually fights.
3. When GCI gets a line they are allowed to get the REA subsidy when they do nothing in the way of installing or maintaining cable facilities to serve the customer. This is sure way to destroy to benefits of universal service in areas of high cost.

I appreciate your time and I and my family who's livelihood depends on the outcome of this bill will be watching how this bill progresses.

Thanks for your time,

Dennis Morris
Alaska Communication Systems
Acting SWC Foreman
907-564-1906

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Subject: FW: HB 111
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 11:07:26 -0800
From: "Rossback, Jewell G." <JRossbac@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

> *My husband and I have been employed by ATU, PTI and ACS for at least*
> *25 years. Being in the communication business for this many years, we*
> *have seen so many changes, some that are healthy and some that are not.*
>
> *We believe that ACS should be allowed to compete by the same rules*
> *as GCI. For example, ACS should be allowed to bundle together regulated*
> *and unregulated services such as local, long distance, Internet and*
> *Wireless. GCI has been doing this for many years.*
> *Everywhere we turn, the news media is always against the incumbent.*
> *They help fuel the communications problems. Where is it fair that we*
> *should lease our equipment to GCI and they not have to pay what it costs*
> *to support it? Is it that our Representatives want to see the failure of*
> *competition or bankrupt one company where there will be no competition*
> *anymore??*
> *When House Bill 111 as amended passes, there will be real*
> *competition for the first time. This will allow service providers to*
> *offer their best deals because all the competing companies will be*
> *operating under the same set of rules.*
> *As a voter in Alaska for almost 30 years, I encourage you to vote in*
> *support of the House Bill 111.*
>
> *Thank You*
> *Bill and Jewell Rossback*
>
>
>
>

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Subject: HB111, with amendments
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 11:06:12 -0800
From: "Gamash, Pam" <pgamash@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

I am an ACS employee who witnesses on a daily basis the negative impact to customers caused by the one sided regulation of phone service in Alaska. A situation being called "competition" by GCI is in fact has tied the hands of ACS. Current regulations force ACS to lease lines to GCI at a rate that is below the cost of maintaining the lines. There may have been a time when keeping the ACS giant in check seemed necessary, but that time has passed. ACS has lost 50% of the market share. The current situation also supports regulations that prohibit ACS from offering efficient customer service. Customers who wish to purchase ACS services must be passed to several departments because of guidelines set forth by the RCA. Customers who call GCI for these same services can speak to one person to receive several services with the blessing of the RCA. ACS represenatives are not allowed to even speak about certain ACS products. This gives the impression to the general public that dealing with ACS is painstaking process. If the situation remains as it is today it is only a matter of time before ACS itself is a thing of the past. If ACS, the company that supports GCI & AT&T fails....then what will Alaskans do for phone service. Please level the playing field & help untie the hands of Alaskan Communications Systems, I urge you to vote yes on HB111, with amendments.

Pam Gamash

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Subject: HB111
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 12:13:07 -0700 (PDT)
From: "Gerald S. and A. Linda Beyer" <gbeyer@rocketmail.com>
To: Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us

Dear Ms McGuire:<?xml:namespace prefix = o ns = "urn:schemas-microsoft-com:office:office" />

Thank you for taking the time to read my e-mail. I would ask you to consider supporting HB111 with the amendments, rather than without.

I am an ACS employee, and have watched the RCA (APUC) rule consistently favor of GCI over the past ten years. There is at least one staff member who is a former ATU employee that bears ACS serious ill will, regardless of the merit of cases before them, and it's important to both competition and to fairness that the commission not be allowed to ajudicate w/o legislative review.

Trying not to be inflammatory, GCI has attained it's current market position by raising local cable rates (where they have the monopoly), and also by being subsidized by ACS' being forced to sell them core services well under our actual costs.

I believe that if the RCA persists in their historical approach, you will see the end of ACS.

I hope you will consider my concerns when your vote comes due.

cordially,

Gerald Beyer

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The New Yahoo! Search - Faster. Easier. Bingo.

Subject: HB111
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 11:21:58 -0800
From: "Robinson, L (Scott)" <LRobinso@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

Good Morning,,,I have worked in the Telephone Industry in our great state of Alaska since 1974.I have seen many,many changes.Deregulation was a major change.Since then the consumer has been the one to pay.I feel compitition is very important,especially when it is on a fair playing field.I feel ACS should not have to subsidize GCI .This subsidy takes root in lease rates that are a mere fraction of the true cost that ACS has incurred.Please support HB111 and all of its critical amendments.... Thank you very much for your time Scott Robinson

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Subject: FW: Pass House Bill 111 Including Amendments
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 11:30:27 -0800
From: "Dale, Kathy" <KDALE@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

> *-----Original Message-----*
> *From: Dale, Kathy*
> *Sent: Thursday, May 15, 2003 11:20 AM*
> *To: 'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.as.us';*
> *'Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.state.ak.us';*
> *'Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us';*
> *'Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us';*
> *'Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.state.ak.us';*
> *'Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us';*
> *'Representative_Max_Gurenberg@legis.state.ak.us'*
> *Cc: 'kdale@acsalaska.net'*
> *Subject: Pass House Bill 111 Including Amendments*
>
> *I have been an employee in the telecommunications industry in Alaska since*
>
> *1989. I came into this industry when the model for public services was a*
> *monopoly. I am still here where the model for telecommunications is*
> *supposed to be competition. However, that is not the model that is*
> *operating. The incumbent local exchange carrier (ILEC) is treated as a*
> *monopoly and regulated by the RCA. The competitive local exchange carrier*
>
> *(CLEC) is allowed to set its rates with out filing rate cases, can bundle*
> *regulated and deregulated services and purchase regulated lines from the*
> *ILEC at $10 less per month than it costs to maintain that line. I don't*
> *think the ILECs in Alaska are afraid of competition, but GCI most*
> *certainly is. GCI is spending a tremendous amount of money to keep the*
> *ILECs regulated. Ask yourself why? Support HB 111 including amendments*
> *and give the citizens of Alaska true telecommunications competition.*
>
> *Thank you in advance for your support in this effort. kd*
>
>
>

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Subject: HB111
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 11:30:42 -0800
From: "Hanley, Abigail" <Abigail.Hanley@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

Representative McGuire:

I have lived my entire life here in Alaska, and I had planned on staying here. However the Regulatory Commission of Alaska is now threatening my job security, retirement, and my future here in Alaska. Please support HB 111 with all of its critical amendments. I am very proud to be an ACS employee, and I want our company to survive. ACS treats it's employees and customers with great care and consideration. I find GCI's business practices despicable and yet they seem to be rewarded for being underhanded. Having been a cable customer (out of necessity not by choice) I have seen my rates get raised over and over again..... Where is the government when they do this?

ACS should be allowed to compete by the same rules as GCI. For example, ACS should be allowed to bundle together regulated and unregulated services such as local, long distance, Internet and Wireless. I have been fortunate enough to work in all of these departments and I have seen firsthand the way that our hands are tied. In order to set up a customer with Local, Long Distance, and Internet the customer has to be transferred to at least three separate departments. However if they call GCI, one rep is able to help with everything. How is this fair competition? I ask again that you support HB 111 with all of its critical amendments.

Thank you,
Abigail Hanley

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Subject: HB 111
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 11:32:26 -0800
From: "Simpson, William (Bill)" <wsimpson@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

I urge you to vote for HB 111

WITH the amendments added by the House Rules Committee.

William L. Simpson

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Subject: HB 111 with Amendments
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 11:33:58 -0800
From: "Olson, Kirsten" <Kirsten.Olson@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

Dear Ms McGuire,

> *I am writing you in regards to the HB 111 that is currently in debate. I think it is essential to both my own personal future, and the future of the telecommunications field in Alaska, that the HB 111 gets passed with all it's critical amendments. ACS should be allowed to complete by the same rules as GCI. I find myself in a situation where my job is at risk. If the RCA is allowed to continue as is, without the necessary amendments, I will not have a job in a few years. It is so vitally important to have the HB 111 as amended passed. Competition in Alaska has far surpassed what was originally intended with Telecommunications Act of 1996, and there is no need for the status quo to continue as is. I feel confident in saying that with the passage of the amended HB 111 that it will make the telecommunications industry even stronger in Alaska by making it a fairer market.*
>
> *I am very concerned about my job and my livelihood. I encourage you to represent my family and myself when you cast your vote on this important piece of legislation. Please support HB 111 and all it's critical amendments.*
>
> *Respectfully,*
>
> *Kirsten M. Olson*
>
>

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Subject: HB111 & SB72
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 11:34:01 -0800
From: "Wilcox, Debbie" <dwilcox@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

PLEASE VOTE TO SUPPORT HB111 & SB72 WITH ALL OF THE AMENDMENTS !

When House Bill 111 as amended passes, Alaskan telecommunications consumers will have real competition for the first time. Competition which allows all service providers to offer their "best" deals because all the competing companies will be operating under the same set of rules on a level playing field.

Forcing ACS to subsidize its competitors is not competition.

Sincerely,

Debbie Wilcox
P. O. Box 241493
Anchorage, Ak. 99524

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Subject: HB 111 as amended
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 11:34:35 -0800
From: "Brown, Philip C." <PBrown@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.st
"'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat
"'Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.sta
"'Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us>

I am a testboardman for ACS, and have worked for GCI in the past. It would be fair to say that your action on the HB 111 will have a significant impact on my livelihood. I have seen the devastating effects of the actions of the RCA over the past few years on the financial well-being of my employer. Please enact this legislation with its amendments, in order to bring some sense back into the telecommunications industry in Alaska. Without these amendments, the current inequities are sure to do far-reaching and irreversible damage to not only ACS, but to Alaskan consumers as well.

Thank you for voting to ensure that telecom competition in Alaska benefits consumers as much as it has GCI over the past three years.

Phil Brown
Testdeskman
(907)564-1804
(907)561-0303 Fax

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Subject: Please Support HB111 With Ammendments
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 11:37:53 -0800
From: "Rasor, Holly E." <hrasor@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat
"'Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.sta
"'Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.sta
"'Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.st

Dear Honorable Representatives,

My Name is Holly Rasor I have lived here in Alaska since I was 5 years old. I am now 24 years old I work for ACS, before I worked here I never understood what competion really meant. Now I might be biased but what I see happening does not seem fair at all.

Right now all I see is a company taking advantage of unfair competion. By GCI using our lines that we have to sell to them at a cheaper price and them turning around and selling our lines to their customers at a even lower rate. Then us having to fix them for free! Where is the fairness or the competion in that. What is going to happen to all of the customers when ACS has to go out of business becasue of some unfair regulations.

Then not only will those unfair regulations have destroyed the lively hood of me and my family but others as well. I urge you to support HB111 WITH AMMENDMENTS. It is the fair and right thing to do. Compentition is fun and a great thing to witness, showing which company has better quaility and more innovative ideas but only if it is done fair. Please help us by supporting this.

Thank you for your time and consideration

Holly Rasor
564-1123

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Subject: Support for HB 111
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 11:39:57 -0800
From: "Torkelson, Shari" <storkels@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat
"'Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.sta
"'Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.sta
"'Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.s

To my Legislators,
I am a registered voter and long time ACS employee.
I support HB 111 not only as an employee of ACS, but as a consumer of utilities.
GCI has been given the leading edge in communications by "unfair competition legislation".
This needs to be corrected and HB 111 and all its ammendments is critical in bringing true
competition to Alaska. In my years here, GCI always advertises fair competition, when in fact
my experience been the opposite. Their court record is proof of that.
They monopolize the cable TV industry here in Anchorage! And their rates reflect that.
GCI has a fair share of the market.
They fought for years to prevent ACS from entering the long distance market.
We need competition to be fair!
Please support HB 111.

Shari Torkelson
Network Design Engineer
ACS Network Engineering
Phone 907-564-1844
Fax 907-564-8552

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Subject: hb111
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 11:40:28 -0800
From: "Berkley, Stacy" <sberkley@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

I am hoping by writing you my concerns about the bill HB111 with amendments will be looked at seriously. My family has been apart of Alaska for over 75years they have seen things come and go. My family has been with this Alaska Company all of there lives so to see and hear the things that are happening to this company is dreadful. Unfair competition has to go, and by passing this bill will help do that. Alaska Communication System welcomes competition but it must be fair competition it must be equal. And if other companies want to use or resources they should be able to but they must pay a full price just like any other customer. So please don't be swayed by the negative ads in the paper by our competition but fight back and say "What's fair is fair" HB111 with amendments will be passed.

Thank You
Stacy Berkley

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Subject: HB111
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 11:41:01 -0800
From: "Sylvia, Trena L." <TSylvia@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

Representatives for Interior Alaska
And
House Finance Committee Members

Re: HB111

I would like to first take the time to thank you for reading my letter.

My request for you simply is to support HB 111 and all of its amendments. Over the last couple of years, I have noticed an increase in unfair rules and regulations limiting my companies' competitiveness. This makes it increasingly hard to maintain a level of job security for fellow co-workers and myself. We all offer a great deal to our community. I have establish myself in the community through my involvement in 4-H. Having raised two daughters in Fairbanks, and still having one daughter starting her 8th grade year; job security is a vital part of my families life. My family also provides horses for 4-H members in our community to use, to learn the value of working with animals. Again, this is something I could not do without my job.

I love working at ACS. Never have I ever worked for a company with so much compassion toward their employee's or customers. It would be a tremendous loss to Alaska if HB 111 did not pass with the amendments.

We must be allowed to compete fairly, by the same rules and guidelines as GCI. When House Bill 111 as amended passes, I feel, our state will for the first time have real competition in telecommunications.

My family as voters in your district encourages you to represent us when you cast your vote in this important legislation. Please support HB111 and all its critical amendments.

Thank you,
Trena Sylvia
Community Member
And
ACS Employee

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Subject: HB 111 WITH AMENDMENTS-SUPPORT IT PLEASE!
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 12:42:37 -0700 (PDT)
From: Michael Mandregan <mmandregan@yahoo.com>
To: Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us, Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.state.ak.us, Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us, Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us, Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.state.ak.us, Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us, Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.state.ak.us

Dear Committee Members;

Please, bring fairness into this "competition".

I have been employed by ACS for 9 years. The reality of how negatively the RCA's unfairness has effected ACS' bottom line is hard to describe. We are honest hard workers here at ACS. We support competition. It is in my nature to compete, but competition is meaningless if the officials don't know or understand the rules of the game! I know what it's like to favor the "underdog". GCI is no underdog in this so-called regulated environment. Please pass HB 111 With Amendments.

Cordially Yours,
Dedicated Citizen-ACS Employee-Father of 2

Michael Mandregan, Engineer-Network Circuit Design

Do you Yahoo!?
The New Yahoo! Search - Faster. Easier. Bingo.

Subject: HB 111
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 11:46:53 -0800
From: "Snisarenko, Shawn" <ssnisarenko@ascg.com>
To: <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us>

Ms. McGuire:

My name is Shawn Snisarenko and my address is 8441 Moorland St, Anchorage, AK 99502. First I would like to say that I am in no way affiliated with ACS, nor do I know anyone who works there. I am in favor of HB111 with the amendments pertaining to fair compensation for leasing the equipment of the primary carrier. I believe in competition in the market place; however, it needs to occur on a level playing field. It is not fair that ACS must compete with one hand tied with one hand tied behind their back. In fact, I continue to use ACS for my local and long distance phone service as a protest against this situation even though it costs more. GCI has some nerve to complain about this bill. They continue to hold a monopoly on cable TV and have no problem raking Anchorage consumers over the coals with the highest cable rates in the country.

Thank you for your attention on this matter.

Shawn P. Snisarenko

Subject: Requesting your support of HB111 with amendments
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 11:54:06 -0800
From: "Neff, La'Net" <LNeff@acsalaska.com>
To: Anderson T <Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.state.ak.us>,
Gruenberg Max <Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.state.ak.us>,
Holm Jim <Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us>,
Les Gara <Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us>,
McGuire L <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us>,
Ogg D <Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us>,
Samuels Ralph <Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.state.ak.us>

Since the initial ACS-GCI 'interim' interconnection agreement was signed, ACS has had regulations so stringent that we are not allowed compete in the local telephone service market. We continue to be considered the "incumbent LEC" for local telephone service, although we clearly have lost close to 50% of our market share in the Anchorage market-if not more! This did not happen yesterday, last week or even last month. We have been begging for relief for YEARS.

It is more than time to even the playing field and require GCI to compensate ACS for the costs of the services we provide to their customers. It is also time for ACS to be able to provide the same level of service to our customers as GCI does to theirs (Bundling services together, ease of business for our customer base, etc).

Our goal is to be able to proudly promote competition in the state of Alaska, we understand that this benefits the communities we serve, we simply want to be given the ability to be competitive.

We urge you to look at the FACTS about this issue and weigh them carefully. ACS and it's employees as well as our customers need your vote:

Please support HB111 WITH AMENDMENTS.

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Subject: HB 111
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 11:56:34 -0800
From: "John F. Jansen" <santaman@alaska.net>
To: Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us

I urge you to support HB 111 with current amendments. I do not believe that ACS should be
forced to lease its facilities to GCI at a fraction of the costs.
RCA's practices are skewed against ACS.

--

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

John F. Jansen
P.O. Box 3609
8508 Highlander Circle
Palmer AK 99645-3609

Phone: 907/746-2963
Fax: 907/746-2964
email: santaman@alaska.net

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Subject: Fair competition?
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 12:03:16 -0800
From: "Moninski, Olga" <omoninsk@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat
"'Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.sta
"'Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.s
"'Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us>

Dear Representatives.

I have worked in the Telecommunications industry for twenty two years: sixteen of them in Russia and six in the U.S.A. (including more than three years for ACS.) I can tell you that competition is great: it keeps the prices down and pushes telecommunications companies to develop different features to attract customers.

However, it's difficult to call the situation we have now "competition" when one company gets special treatment. If ACS one day goes out of business, what will the State of Alaska have to say? That they didn't mean for it to happen?

Please support HB 111 and all its critical amendments. Please don't favor one child over another one.

Best regards,

Olga "Olya" Moninski
ACS Engineering
(907) 564-1185 office ph.
(907) 242-9019 cell ph.
omoninsk@acsalaska.com
fax (907) 564-3447

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Subject: I support HB111 with amendments
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 13:06:33 -0700 (PDT)
From: jason werner <ja_wer@yahoo.com>
To: Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us, Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us, Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us, Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.state.ak.us, Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us

To all Representatives,

My name is Jason Werner, I have lived in alaska and
been a resident for over 20 yrs. I support Alaska and
fair competition in our economy.

I Support HB111 with amendments

Jason Werner
17622 N Juanita Loop
Eagle River, AK
622 1003\Cell 830 4004

Do you Yahoo!?
The New Yahoo! Search - Faster. Easier. Bingo.
http://search.yahoo.com

Subject: Support HB 111 WITH AMENDMENTS!!!!
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 12:09:29 -0800
From: "Wendy Eggleston" <laren.eggleston@acsalaska.net>
To: <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us>

I believe that we need fare competion in the telecommunications field. I believe that ACS formally ATU/PTI has suffered long enough. GCI had the better part
of the Market share with going into new territories. I feel that isn't about time that GCI pays their fare share on the rates instead of getting the cream of the crop. I believe that the RCA should treat everyone as equals in the telecommunication field, Instead of giving provisions to the ones that they favor. Why should ACS customers suffer all the impact on the rates and pay more while GCI is getting a sweet deal that the RCA will not change??? They shouldn't. We all should be equal.

Thank you
Wendy Eggleston

Subject: HB 111
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 12:16:18 -0800
From: "Penny" <penny@alaska.net>
To: <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us>

I support HB 111 with amendments. My job at ACS, my career, my family's well being are at stake.

Thank you.

Penny Straka

Subject: Support HB 111
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 12:28:53 -0800
From: "The Helvies" <helvies@acsalaska.net>
To: <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us>,
<Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.state.ak.us>,
<Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us>, <Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us>,
<Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.state.ak.us>,
<Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us>,
<Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.state.ak.us>

Please support HB 111 and all its critical amendments.

ACS should be allowed to compete by the same rules as GCI.

What we have witnessed through full-page ads, radio spots, Internet sites, and political maneuvering is an attempt to maintain a structure, which requires ACS to subsidize its chief competitor, GCI, the cable monopolist. This subsidy takes root in lease rates that are a mere fraction of the true cost ACS has incurred. I encourage you to support HB 111 and all its critical amendments.

I have been to GCI's web site for "Fair Competition" and was dissapointed to see GCI trying to make ACS and AT&T out as the "Bad Guys. Forcing ACS to subsidize its competitors is not competition. Please vote for what is right.

I have attached a link to the Illinoise State Legislater to let you see how they have delt with this issue.
http://www.legis.state.il.us/legislation/publicacts/fulltext.asp?Name=093-0005

Sincerely,

Roger Helvie

Subject: House Approves Nurse Incentive Program
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 12:36:59 -0800
From: J D Wallace <JD_Wallace@Legis.state.ak.us>
Organization: Alaska State Legislature
To: lhscjdw+housemajlegs@legis.state.ak.us

Representative Peggy Wilson
District 2

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 15, 2003
CONTACT: J.D. Wallace, House Majority Press Secretary (907) 465-5369

House Approves Nurse Incentive Program

Debt Relief Will Help Bring More Nurses to the State

(Juneau)—The Alaska House of Representatives unanimously approved HB 211 by a vote of 37 to zero on Thursday. Sponsored by House Health, Education, and Social Services Committee Chair Rep. Peggy Wilson (R-Wrangell), HB 211 establishes the Alaska Nurse Recruitment Loan Repayment Program as an incentive to attract new nurses to the state and encourage Alaskans to pursue nursing vocations in Alaska. The program offers up to $2,000 per year, not to exceed $10,000 to repay nursing loans.

"Lightening a nurse's loan repayment burden by even this modest amount should help attract more nurses to Alaska, and encourage Alaskans who are training to be nurses to stay here," Representative Wilson said.

In 2002, the Alaska Colleagues in Caring, in collaboration with the Alaska Hospital and Nursing Home Association, surveyed the need for more nurses in Alaska healthcare facilities. Results showed that vacancy rates for RNs had increased from 5.7% in 2000 to 11.5% in 2002, with more increases projected for the future. Facilities in western and northern Alaska reported a vacancy rate of more than 20%.

The Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development projects that the state will need 4100 more nurses in the next seven years, almost double the current demand. The University of Alaska and health care institutions in the state are cooperating to expand in state nursing education opportunities, and aim to double the number of nursing graduates by 2006. Wilson, who is also a nurse, said that Alaska cannot afford to wait any longer to provide financial incentives to bring more nurses to Alaska.

"The quality of our health care is clearly in danger because of this shortage, and our health care facilities are spending millions of dollars to hire visiting nurses," Wilson said. "Our hospitals could spend those funds much more effectively on nurses who are committed to staying in Alaska communities."

HB 211 moves to the Senate.

# # #

Subject: Amended HB111
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 12:40:00 -0800
From: "Mathews, Ronald D." <RMathews@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

Dear Representative,

My name is Ron Mathews, I have lived in Alaska for 46 yrs, born in Sitka and now living in Juneau. I am not a politically minded person nor have I ever written any of my political resources. I think it is time with the upcoming HB111. I believe very much in competition in the work place, and being a business owner I thrive on the opportunity to provide a better service than my competitors. What is happening between GCI and the local Telephone Co. has got nothing to do with fair competition, and being a Country that is providing a free equal environment for the 3rd world countries, it is deplorable to see what out government is allowing to take place right here in Alaska. I have a high respect for our political structure and the people who man the post. I guess what I really want to say here is that you, our people in office have an obligation before God almighty and than to the people you serve, to do what is right. I have read the ads in the Newspaper and heard the ads on the radio that GCI is putting out. I know the general public might not what is true or false, but you our Government does. Fair business would be for GCI to use its own Cable plant and sell its own service, and the local Telephone Co use its own Cable plant to sell its service. And the rules for the one have to be the same as the rules for the second. PLEASE DO NOT ALLOW THE AMENDMENTS BE STRIPPED OFF HB111 We so need an honest government

Thank you for listening

Ron Mathew

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Subject: Please support HB 111 and all its critical amendments.
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 12:18:29 -0800
From: "Dykman, Michelle K." <mdykman@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

Dear Committee:

I thank you for taking the time to read my letter, however I have to tell you, I have never taken the time to sit down and write to any politician. Like most people, I always thought it fell on deaf ears. But this time is different because it is in my back yard as they say.
So I am writing to you today in regards to the HB 111 W/ AMENDMENTS.
I am not just a voting constituent, but more importantly I am a CONSUMER. And as a consumer I want to see fair competition and lower rates. (And in case know one knows it.... you don't get lower rates without competition)
So as a voter in your district, I encourage you to represent my family and myself when you cast your vote on this important legislation. Please support HB 111 and all its critical amendments.
What is the harm in allowing peoples voices to be heard over all the negative yammering from GCI. Which is another thing that really bother's me, the ads that GCI are allowed to air. They continue to bombard the airways with constant negative slanderous accusations of ACS, It pains me to have to explain these GCI ads to my 11 year old son when he ask's me what they are talking about. Especially when we as parents are trying to teach our children to be FAIR, MORAL & ETHICAL in their responsibilities to the community they live in.
(In case any of you have forgotten people learn by example.)

Another thing I don't understand is... If the Regulatory Commission was established to protect ME the consumer.... Then where were they when GCI raised cable rates several times & then went even further to FORCE consumer's to take their higher priced digital cable Service? This is what happened to my family when one of our cable box's went on the blip & GCI came out to fix it, I was forced to take their over priced digital cable service there was no other option's available to me. I think this kind of monopoly is outrageous, But I guess I should not worry since I do have the RCA to watch out for ME! This experience has once again sent the message that there is some kind of hidden agenda that the RCA must be trying to achieve.

I think competition is GREAT ... and absolutely necessary for our community to continue to grow.

If the general public would actually take the time to find out the facts surrounding the phone wars, any sane person would see that GCI is getting more than their fair share of the market at the high exorbitant cost to ACS. By leasing there facility's at 1/2 the cost.
I'm not sure but I think they have a name for people like that ... Swindler's?

So once again I would like to reiterate my strong feelings towards this issue. And since every problem has to have a solution & every solution has to have a starting place then start by leveling the playing field for fair competition and allow the consumer's to make a more educated choice as to which company they want to provide there service to them.

Thanks for listening.....

Sincerely,

Michelle Dykman
Wk # 564-1730

Please support HB 111 and all its critical amendments.

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Subject: Support HB111 WITH Amendments
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 12:57:25 -0800
From: "Colp, Larry D." <lcolp@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat
"'Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.sta
"'Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.sta
"'Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.s
CC: "'Representative_John_Coghill@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_John_Coghill@legis.state.ak
"'Representative_Hugh_Fate@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Hugh_Fate@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Jim_Whitaker@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Jim_Whitaker@legis.state.a

Dear Honorable Representatives

Competition is fine as long as the playing field is level, which it presently is not.

It is like an auto dealership on best corner of the city established years ago. It is forced to lease show lot and service garage portion (until up to 30-40% of market) at a cost basis of averaged since dealership begun. The competition is then allowed to pass fliers out just outside gate encouraging use of competitive portion only. Leasing includes all except billing and collection since database of parts used by each customer still must be maintained with just note that it belongs to competition. When expansion is needed, it is required to be done and is accomplished but then competition gets to use added at previous lease value even if newest cost is 10 times original. This is not fair competition since competitor does not have to build similar or better to get customer. Let us use depreciation tables of FCC or Tax Code of economic life, not RCA mandated potential possible facility life.

I have heard of those building a new house being told to sign up with ACS and after the drop plowed into house and connected for a month to switch to GCI. Capital recovery at historic average.

What irked me the most to hear is that RCA commissioner during a hearing asked GCI what would be reasonable increase and the off-handed verbal response "just happened" to be very close to the result. By cost basis?

Losses to aid a competitor by sales below cost make sure that there is no money for capital additions for new features desired nor expansion to new subdivisions/business construction. From my perspective already there is not enough money for even basic infrastructure replacements before service loss. Further erosion will make the original establishing business bankrupt, which in this case will also kill the services of the competitor-without-infrastructure.

I am a non-management employee of ACS which is about ready to retire so am not trying to support my job. I just see the present RCA mandates to be wrong. I have been a member of the Republican State Central Committee.

I urge you to support HB111 WITH Amendments as best way to support citizen oversight while allowing proper cost recovery to provide services expected by citizens.

Thank you for your representation.

Larry Colp
456-5863r, 459-6285w

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Subject: HB 111
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 13:02:42 -0800
From: "Congleton, Bruce M." <BConglet@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

As an ACS employee, I feel that the rules that we must comply with should also be followed by GCI. Being that this is not the case, the result on our part is large loss of revenue due to an unfair advantage. GCI in turn uses this to their advantage as a means of discrediting our company.

I am a very strong believer in the free enterprise system. Competition between businesses should follow the same guidelines as all other forms of competion, meaning that the same rules should apply to both sides.

Please vote to support HB 111 with amendments.

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Subject: HB111 with Amendments
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 17:10:49 -0400
From: "Mary Hughes" <MHughes@acsalaska.com>
To: "The Honorable Lesil L. McGuire" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us>

Mary Hughes
9742 Reliance dr
Anchorage, AK 99507

May 15, 2003

The Honorable Lesil L. McGuire
House of Representatives
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative McGuire:

I am asking for your support on HB 111 with amendments. The competition doesn't have to follow the same rules as ACS. ACS should be allowed to charge the true cost for their facilities and the depreciation rate should be the same for all the telecommunication companies. ACS should be able to offer all their services & product to the customer with one phone call. The rules should be the same for every one. I am asking that you support HB111 with amendments so the rules are the same for everyone

Sincerely,

Mary E. Hughes

Subject: Bill # HB111
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 13:13:59 -0800
From: "Aldrich, Sunny" <sunny.aldrich@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat
"'Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.sta
"'Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.sta
"'Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.s

To whom it may concern:

I am very concerned about the outcome of bill HB111 with amendments, and am writing to encourage you to support it. I have lived and worked in Alaska my entire life, and I feel that any attack on the infrastructure of our local and rural phone systems is a disservice to Alaskans. It is clear to me that the recent ad campaign and actions taken by GCI is intended to mislead the public so that they can continue to hold an unfair advantage over ACS and damage our ability to service the public. If the legislation is not passed that will allow ACS to charge our resellers what it COSTS us to offer subscriber lines, we will not be able to invest in new services for Alaskans. GCI now has a large enough market share for the telecommunications market here to be considered competitive. Therefore there is no reason to further limit our ability to do business. GCI's efforts to counter this legislation are self serving and will hurt Alaskans in the long run.

This isn't just about the future of me and my family. This is about the future of telecommunications in Alaska. Who would it serve for ACS to continue to sell lines under cost until we can no longer afford to do business? If we're out of business, so are our resellers. In the process, the infrastructure suffers from lack of resources to maintain it and the cost to recover from the damage would be staggering. That scenario benefits no one but GCI.

ACS is run in Alaska by Alaskans. Our ability to do business in this state affects thousands of jobs statewide. We should be allowed to compete fairly with GCI in order to keep our business healthy and to offer the best services and newest technology to Alaskans. The ACS companies pioneered service in Alaska and in the Wireless and long distance markets offer the only real local competition to out-of-state businesses like AT&T and GCI. Our financial future affects all Alaskans and the services that are offered to them. We're the only local choice in many markets for many Alaskans.

Please support Alaskan jobs and businesses by leveling the playing field and allowing us to business the way it's intended to be done - fairly.

Sincerely,

Sunny Aldrich

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speak with the message sender. In addition, please immediately delete this message and all attachments. Thank you.

May 15, 2003

Dear Honorable Representatives,

My name is Stacie Byrns. I am a single mother and I work for Alaska Communications Systems. I am writing to you in hopes that you will support HB 111 WITH all amendments attached.

The reason that I am asking you to support this bill is not only because I work for Alaska Communications Systems (ACS), but also because without fair competition in the Telecommunications Area the customer (YOU and I) become caught in the middle. When there is a fair and equal competition field then WE come out on top.

I have always prided myself on being fair and just to everyone no matter what the situation as such when I see a full-page ad or hear a radio spot that is filled with untruths then I get upset. This political maneuvering is nothing more then an attempt to maintain a structure, which requires ACS to subsidize its chief competitor, GCI. This subsidy takes root in lease rates that are a mere fraction of the true cost ACS has incurred.

Why would ACS raise it Local and/or Business Customer Rates by $100 million annually? Don't you think that this is a little opperserd? That would only encourage our customers to turn to GCI for service. ACS would raise its interconnect fees so that GCI was paying a compensatory rate for the use of the ACS Network. This to me would be a fair playing field.

When House Bill 111 as amended passes, then Alaskan telecommunications consumers will have real competition for the first time. Competition which allows all service providers to offer their "BEST" deals because all the competing companies will be operating under the same set of rules on a level playing field.

Thank you for voting FOR HB 111 WITH all amendments.

Sincerely,
Stacie Byrns
Sr. Clerical Specialist
Alaska Communications Systems
564-1929 work

Subject: FW: will you proof this.
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 13:48:04 -0800
From: "Fifield, Donese L." <dfifield@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat
"'Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.state.ak.u
"'Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.sta
"'Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Pete_Kott@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Pete_Kott@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Ethan_Berkowitz@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Ethan_Berkowitz@legis
CC: "'Lt_Governor@gov.state.sk.us'" <Lt_Governor@gov.state.sk.us>

> *My name is Donese Fifield. I have lived in Alaska since I was 1*
> *years old (1971). I have 2 wonderful boys and a wonderful husband. My*
> *mother has also worked in the Telecommunications industry for 16 years at*
> *Alascom, and I have worked in the Telecommunications industry for six*
> *years. I am proud to have "Telephony" a part of my family , and who knows*
> *maybe my son's will grow up to be a line man, or Engineer in the same*
> *industry If given the chance only If the industry's integrity can be*
> *saved.*

I see a situation where my company is not allowed compete on a equal and level playing field. Every day I process orders for a competitor that receives a substantial discount and munipulates an agreement that we (ACS) entered into in good faith to be in compliance with the Telecommunications Act. Our hands are tied and frankly this competitor doesn't even come close to being able to pay my wages for the service/s I/we provide for them routinely and on a daily basis. It is beyond frustrating and I hate to sound biased, I really do want to see far competition.

> *My job security, retirement, and my children's future are at stake*
> *here as well as the integrity of the Telecommunications Industry.*
> *Please support HB 111 and all amendments. As a voter in your district, I*
> *encourage you to represent my family and myself when you cast your vote on*
> *this important legislation.*
> *My fellow employees and I have run across a very peculiar concept*
> *UNE=Unbundled Network Element, this simple concept has so many definitions*
> *because the RCA is allowed to make up things as they go here in Alaska.*
> *There is no standard in the Telecommunications Industry regarding this*
> *UNE/UNE-P and the appropriate billing for this type of offering. It*
> *"certainly" DOESN'T even begin to cover the costs incurred by the*
> *incumbant LEC (ACS) which by they way we are barely holding a 50% margin*
> *these days on LEC customers in Anchorage and the similar scenarios where*
> *GCI has entered the Market. UNE I feel was an established standard until*
> *ACS was forced to allow a parasite too feed off under the gause of fair*
> *competition. Other states are trying to do something about this also. It*
> *absolutely is a HUGE issue and needs to be looked at from a different*
> *perspective. Would you order from Nordstrom and expect the same*
> *merchandise for a 26% discount that Sears sells theirs for? And then also*
> *expect Sears to deliver it at the same standards?*
> *What I have witnessed through full-page ads, radio spots, Internet*
> *sites, and political maneuvering is an attempt to maintain a structure,*
> *which requires ACS to subsidize its chief competitor, GCI, the cable*
> *monopolist. This subsidy takes root in lease rates that are a mere*
> *fraction of the true cost ACS has incurred. This is NOT right!!! NOR,*
> *would I in good conscientious "ever" state to the public "Fair*
> *Competition" is in place and working here in Alaska. I am proud to work*
> *ACS. If GCI wants to be a phone company and compete they need to become*
> *a Phone Company and do so, not rely on us to install "ALL" the necessary*
> *facilities to adequately support "their" customer base. As an employee*
> *who processes their orders let me tell you, they rely on us completely to*
> *much to provide not only the physical equipment to provide the service but*

> *also how to right there orders, and then complain when they can't right*
> *there orders correctly, that we are delaying service. They lie. That's all*
> *they know what do really well.*
> *They need to be in the field doing what ever is necessary to get*
> *there own customers and not have access to our customer base via*
> *"electronic process" and other methods in which makes the concept of fair*
> *competition a complete joke. Not to mention the fact they pay a fraction*
> *of the cost to cover any of the facilities they need ACS to provide,*
> *install and work for them. We even have to face GCI's so called*
> *"customers" in the field when installing service, for what I might say*
> *most customers in Juneau and Fairbanks didn't know they ordered and sent*
> *us away. What's wrong with that picture?*
> *I love my job, and my community and being able to provide my family*
> *a secure future with the fact I have a STABLE job, that pays well and has*
> *wonderful medical, and other benefits, Including being a member of the*
> *IBEW. Which adds to my pride of what I do.*
>
> *It is imperative for government officials in Alaska to recognize*
> *their is a problem with the current RCA as it stands, and to make the*
> *level of playing field fair to allow more consumer choice, and more open*
> *competition, It must move forward to a deregulatory framework, Also to*
> *quit subsidizing one competitor over another. Support HB 111 AND ALL*
> *Amendments.*
>
The local economy can not afford to have high paying, stable jobs lost. Or better yet who will do GCI's work when we have little to no staff due to layoffs because we are paying for and maintaining their Infra-structure to compete against us >?

I realize this is long and appreciate all you're time, really I do.
Please keep fair competition "FAIR" and Standard!
Not to mention my cable bill certainty hasn't gone down, and I have no other "choice" for cable service, other than getting A dish, which has less standards for choices than cable, where is the competition in that?

> *DONESE FIFIELD*
> *PROUD ACS BUSINESS SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE*
> *564 7972*
> *564 1444 FAX*
>
>
>
>
>
>

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Subject: hb111
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 13:54:00 -0800
From: "Masneri, Stanley" <smasneri@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

Dear Representative McGuire;

I know that your offices are being flooded with email and faxes on this issue. I certainly hope you take the time, in good faith, to head what they say.

I am corresponding with you to convey a sense of urgency in asking for your support of House Bill 111 with all of its' pending amendments. Competition is a win/win situation. But only with a level playing field, which has NOT existed in Alaska since the inception of the RCA. It is time to move beyond petty argument and finally bring this issue into alignment with the original intent of the Telecommunications Act. Which I for one do not believe was to force local carriers to subsidize fledgling parasitical companies to the point of their own insolvency. I do not posses the political correctness to state things as subtly or as delicately as yourself, but I do know right from wrong and I would hope that my vote was not wasted last November.

If you and your peers, with your imbued authorities, give the RCA the continuing power to force an already struggling company into yet more concessions, you will surely be to blame for the death of what should have been a backbone industry in the State. Just as if you pulled the plug yourselves. Who then benefits from the RCA's definition of fair competition? As a consumer I don't care in the least if I save a few pennies each month on my services, if those services become jeopardized, threatened, or deleted altogether.

It is my sincere hope that Alaska will finally break the trend of being years behind the rest of the nation in most things progressive. Anyone that cares to keep abreast of the topic of competition knows how the true intent of the Telecomm Act has been twisted and perverted in the court system to do nothing more than subsidize companies that, for the most part, would not exist were it not for their 'smoke and mirror' tactics and huge political contributions. If things are so equal why is it that more and more states are completely reversing their stance and forcing these new 'competitors' to bear their share of the immense costs associated with maintaining the communications infrastructure.

It is only a matter of time before our legislation is forced to do the same. You will simply have no choice. Please make that choice now!!

I strongly urge you to use your political voice to aid in correcting what I, and many others, see as an egregious contradiction to the principles of free enterprise and fair play upon which this nation was founded.

Please give your full support to House Bill 111 and its' proposed amendments.

Sincerely;

Stan Masneri
907-564-1906 (wk)

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us immediately by reply or by telephone (collect at 907-564-1000) and ask to speak with the message sender. In addition, please immediately delete this message and all attachments. Thank you.

Subject: House Bill 111 With Amendments
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 14:12:24 -0800
From: "Crone, Elaine L." <ECrone@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.sta
"'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat
"'Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.sta
"'Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.s

Please pass this bill With Amendments. It will not raise ACS telephone rates and it will provide a more level playing field for GCI and ACS, which the RCA has not been willing to do so far. In a more competitive environment both companies could afford to invest in newer technologies and upgrade their current equipment for the benefit of all Alaskan customers. It is unfair to force one company to subsidize another through below cost wholesale rates, longer depreciation schedules, as well as require tariff restrictions that don't allow ACS to bundle their customer offerings for all services in one call center, as well as other restrictions that only apply to ACS, not GCI.

I have lived and worked in Alaska for over 20 years and seen many changes in the telecommunications industry. I've never seen such an unfair regulatory commission before.

Thank you for your consideration.
Elaine Crone
Sitka

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Subject: RCA
Date: Wed, 14 May 2003 17:24:27 -0800
From: Mathew Family <emerald@gci.net>
To: Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us

Rep McGuire --

During the election, I read your campaign materials and heard you describe your qualifications and experience as a Representative. I am confident they are more than adequate to distinguish between good legislation and plain, bad law.

I have read several position statements opposing HB111 in its current form. I have generally shared the viewpoints of most of them, but the GCI position statement is quite different. I have read it and am alarmed. Amendments have apparently been made that would in some cases actually reverse the Legislature's intent for the RCA. Regardless of whether the GCI analysis is based on a "worst-case" interpretation, several criticisms seem to be based on provisions of the bill that (as amended) are not only unfair to Alaskan telephone users, but also would violate Federal law.

In this crucial legislative session, a bill that could cost both the State government and its citizens so much money with no value received in return should be very carefully evaluated.

Is there really another side to these amendments that I don't see?

Unless there is, please do what you can to preserve the RCA's role and integrity for another four years. It has a good record (NOT just with telephone companies!), and is one of those State services that are well worth their cost.

John Mathew
9200 Emerald St
Anchorage AK
99502-1362
907 243 2511

Subject: RCA
Date: Wed, 14 May 2003 10:34:35 -0800
From: "Toni Dixon" <glhdxn@alaska.net>
To: "Lesil Mcguire" <Representative_Lesil_Mcguire@Legis.state.ak.us>

It seems to me that the current RCA has been ineffective BIG TIME. So, forget the amendments, let it lapse and restructure RCA so that it has an independent oversight - this has becomee political and shouldn't. At this point in looks like the head of RCA and GCI are in bed together...or at a lodge, or whatever....

telecom deregulation is just behind eleectrical deregulation, and telecom degregulation that are the major failures of our time....

You can't force competition...

-----Original Message-----
From: Toni Dixon [mailto:glhdxn@alaska.net]
Sent: Saturday, May 10, 2003 9:38 PM
To: Lesil Mcguire
Subject: RE: [Fwd: McGuire Renews Push for PFD Eligibility for Peace Corps Volunteers]

You go girl!!!

Hey, as long as we are typing, I've got to tell you that even though my kids are grown and almost gone, from my perspective the State can't spend too much on Education.

And, one more thing. Put a cap on the PFD and institute a simple income tax. Let's get it over with. Murky has already lost his credibility on that issue so it is no longer political suicide for him to use the Cap and Tax words.

Keep up the good work. Try not to let the small thinkers get you down.

Toni Dixon

-----Original Message-----
From: Lesil Mcguire
[mailto:Representative_Lesil_Mcguire@Legis.state.ak.us]
Sent: Saturday, May 10, 2003 6:30 PM
Subject: [Fwd: McGuire Renews Push for PFD Eligibility for Peace Corps Volunteers]

Subject: HB 111
Date: Wed, 14 May 2003 22:15:36 -0800
From: "Howard Marsh, PhD" <hmarsh@nexconsulting.com>
To: Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us

Dear Representative McGuire,

As my elected representative, I would like for you to work to defeat the amended HB111 which, as amended, would allow utilities to act counter to the public's benefit without public oversight. As I understand the amendment(s), ACS would be allowed to change its rate structure without public review. I believe that poor business planning and performance should not be balanced on the backs of consumers through an act of legislation.

Thank you

Sincerely,

Howard Marsh
10631 Cutter Circle
Anchorage, AK 99515

Howard M. Marsh, M.B.A., Ph.D.
Northern Exposure Consulting
Business and Technology Consultant
907-522-1013

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indicating this error and delete the transmission from your system immediately.

Subject: House Bill 111
Date: Wed, 14 May 2003 21:27:34 -0900
From: "Daniel Foote" <dafoote@aklighthouse.org>
To: Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us

Representative McGuire,

I urge you to move Bill 111 from committee. I also urge you to support HB 111 as submitted, with no amendments.

The Regulatory Commission of Alaska protects consumers, such as you and I. Actions supported by RCA findings have also been supported by state and federal courts.

Special interests and their special amendments have attempted to neuter this commission
for spite, at the same time that they've lost market share due to their inability to support their constituency. Please support your constituency--those of us that have elected you to office AND pay the bills.

Regards,

Daniel Foote
3620 Hazen Circle
Anchorage, AK 99515

May 15th, 2003

Jamieson Kraig Smyth
P.O. Box 8071
Nikiski, AK 99635-8071

The Hon. Rep. Lesil McGuire,

Since first leaving college in Fairbanks 21 years ago, I have done work for every major player in Alaska's telecommunications industry. I have always been a strong advocate of measures promoting fair competition, because it is my desire that our communications infrastructure be the very best for all Alaskans. I believe that legislation currently under consideration (i.e. HB111) is critical to invigorating this vital industry.

The federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 helped to not only ensure universal service, but also encouraged the competition needed to drive infrastructure investment, innovation and development. The job of the RCA has been to make sure the ILEC's did not have an unfair advantage over the CLEC's, and they have done a good job of that. The time has finally come however, when competitive conditions between ILEC and CLEC are reversed, and under current state regulations our physical plant infrastructure is visibly deteriorating, due to unfair competition... in reverse!

Presently, for example, ILEC's are required to carry the weight of all outside plant (telecommunications cabling development and maintenance). CLEC's are essentially exempted from this burden by regulation, being able to access that infrastructure at a fraction of the cost to build and maintain it. ILEC's are thereby strongly discouraged from timely infrastructure investments, as they yield negative rates of return. CLEC's, meanwhile have no incentive to build what they can require an ILEC to provide below cost. The whole industry seems to require a regulatory move just to build or upgrade outside plant facilities. This is only one example of the several problems addressed by HB111.

In this environment competition once flourished, but is now starting to choke out the very structure upon which the entire industry is based! In all my years in this industry, I have never seen a time of so little investment in, and maintenance of the hard assets that comprise the backbone of Alaska's communications network. This is happening at a time when production and quality of communications infrastructure is at a critical juncture that will determine how well we prosper as a state in the information based economy that is developing worldwide.

All parties to market competition are now well enabled, and well equipped to do battle for their share. Take the gloves off, and let them have at it! I urge you to support HB111 as amended, in its entirety. Our future depends on it.

Sincerely,

Jamieson Kraig Smyth
Phone: 907-776-7031
Cellular: 907-398-6989
Email: jksmyth@eudoramail.com



ACS

Alaska Communications Systems

ACS
35126 K. Beach Road
SOLDOTNA, AK 99669
Phone: 907-260-8610
Fax: 907-260-8620

Fax Transmittal Form

To:	From: Dave Christoffer
Name:	A.C.S.
Organization Name/Dept:	
CC:	Phone: 907-260-8610
Phone number:	Fax: 907-260-8620
Fax number:	
☐ Urgent	Date sent: 5/15/03
☐ For Review	Time sent:
☐ Please Comment	Number of pages including cover page: 1
☐ Please Reply	

Message:

RE: SUPPORT HB 111 and AMMENDMENTS

We are not afraid of competition. We are the most highly skilled workforce in the state and we can compete with anyone, just give us a fair playing field. Support HB 111 WITH AMENDMENTS!!!!

907-260-8610 office
800-760-8620 fax



ACS

Alaska Communications Systems

ACS
35126 K. Beach Road
SOLDOTNA, AK 99669
Phone: 907-260-8610
Fax: 907-260-8620

Fax Transmittal Form

To:

Name:
Organization Name/Dept:
CC:
Phone number:
Fax number:

From: Jim McWilliams

A.C.S.

Phone: 907-260-8610
Fax: 907-260-8620

☐ Urgent
☐ For Review
☐ Please Comment
☐ Please Reply

Date sent: 5/15/03
Time sent:
Number of pages including cover page: 1

Message:

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800-760-8620 fax



ACS

Alaska Communications Systems

ACS
35126 K. Beach Road
SOLDOTNA, AK 99669
Phone: 907-260-8610
Fax: 907-260-8620

Fax Transmittal Form

To:	From: Mike Tice
Name:	A.C.S.
Organization Name/Dept:	
CC:	Phone: 907-260-8610
Phone number:	Fax: 907-260-8620
Fax number:	
❑ Urgent	Date sent: 5/15/03
❑ For Review	Time sent:
❑ Please Comment	Number of pages including cover page: 1
❑ Please Reply	

Message:

RE: SUPPORT HB 111 and AMMENDMENTS

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907-260-8610 office
800-760-8620 fax



ACS

Alaska Communications Systems

ACS
35126 K. Beach Road
SOLDOTNA, AK 99669
Phone: 907-260-8610
Fax: 907-260-8620

Fax Transmittal Form

To:	From: Stan Huhndorf
Name:	A.C.S.
Organization Name/Dept:	
CC:	Phone: 907-260-8610
Phone number:	Fax: 907-260-8620
Fax number:	
☐ Urgent	Date sent: 5/15/03
☐ For Review	Time sent:
☐ Please Comment	Number of pages including cover page: 1
☐ Please Reply	

Message:

RE: SUPPORT HB 111 and AMMENDMENTS

We are not afraid of competition. We are the most highly skilled workforce in the state and we can compete with anyone, just give us a fair playing field. Support HB 111 WITH AMENDMENTS!!!!

907-260-8610 office
800-760-8620 fax

Please Support HB 111 and all its amendments!

ACS has to share its products and services with competing companies like GCI. The RCA says this will encourage companies like ACS to spend on capital projects to improve advanced deployment of advanced telecommunications equipment to service Alaskans.

This actually discourages companies like ACS to invest on NEW advanced telecommunications equipment to service Alaskans because ACS would have to share this NEW technology with competing companies like GCI, AT&T and TelAlaska and ACS would not a good return on their investment. Companies like GCI do not have to invest on any capital projects and advanced telecommunications equipment to service Alaskans because they can get it from ACS for below cost.

So why should ACS invest on anything. You're in business to make money, not share investments. Who ends up suffering? We Alaskans.

Thank you,
Gilbert Carrillo
8301 Majestic Dr
Anchorage AK 99504

Lesil McGuire
465-6592

Please support HB 111 with the AMENMENTS.

House Bill 111 as amended passes, Alaskan telecommunications consumers will have competition for the first time. Competition which allows all service providers to offer their "best" deals because all the competing companies will be operating under the same set of rules on a level playing field

Thank you,
Stephen Crozier
907-345-0423
pwdr98cat@aol.com

Lesil McGuire
465-6592

SCENARIO:

I have a first class shoe store called Happy Feet for 80 years.

Federal law says, oh no, you have a monopoly.

You must offer competition, and oh by the way, you need to make room in your store for BOBO Marcus to come in and sell your shoes. They can also buy your shoes at below cost & sell them to the public cheaper.

And oh by the way, if you want to have a sale you need to file for an OK. In the meantime, since BOBO can do what they want (because BOBO needs no OK's from anyone), they've already had the sale and sold at below cost ALL my shoes!!

And oh by the way, they can have access to your cash register & customer data base but you need to pay for the building, the utilities, the buyers and any new inventory.

And oh by the way, BOBO can accelerate their depreciation over 12 years but HAPPY needs to depreciate over 30 years.

LUDICROUS, STUPID, RIDICULOUS you bet it is!!!!!!!!!!!!

But exactly the way RCA treats ACS.

FAIR COMPETITION.....NOT REGULATION

PLEASE SUPPORT HB 111 WITH ALL AMENDMENTS

KAREL SHAW
2334 MARIAN BAY CIR
ANCHORAGE, AK 99515
907-522-5251

I am asking for your support on **HB 111 with amendments** so it will level the playing field for everyone. The competition doesn't have to follow the same rules as ACS. ACS should be allowed to charge the true cost for their facilities and the depreciation rate should be the **same** for **all** the telecommunication companies. ACS should be able to offer all their services & product to the customer with **one** phone call. The rules should be the same for every one. I am asking that you support **HB111 with amendments** so all telecommunication companies has the same level playing field which will benefit all Alaskan.

Thank you,
Mary E. Hughes
ACS/ Service order Representative

May 15, 2003

Very Important!

Judiciary Committee:
Lesil McGuire
Tom Anderson
Dan Ogg
Jim Holm
Ralph Samuels
Les Grara
Max Gruenberg (also my State Representative-go Max!!!)

RE: HB111 & critical amendments

I am a ten year employee of ATU/ACS and I am writing to urge each of you to vote for HB111 with all its' critical amendments in order to promote fair and equitable competition in the telecommunications industry in Alaska. One of the goals of the federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 was to encourage competition of local telephone service providers. However, the Regulatory Commission of Alaska has allowed unfair competition, in that, it gives an unfair advantage to GCI by not requiring them to help pay for costs of building new facilities to service Alaska's growing demand for additional telecommunication facilities. The way it stands now the RCA has given GCI support in it's rulings to "lease" facilities from ACS at a fraction of the costs to maintain and operate the network currently in existence, not to mention the costs of constructing new facilities. There is no reason for ACS to build additional facilities knowing that the competition would be allowed to lease these new facilities at below costs rates & by not requiring GCI to bear some of the costs in constructing these same projects.

Competition between ACS & GCI needs to be done by the same rules. Competition is a good, healthy way for any business to increase and/or maintain a client base. However, the current situation only supports unfair competition as ACS should be allowed to bundle together regulated & deregulated services just as GCI (the cable monopoly company) does at this time and has for over seven years. The subsidy that ACS is made to furnish GCI is unfair and takes root in lease rates that are a mere fraction of the true costs ACS has incurred. I urge you all to support HB111 and all its' critical amendments. HB111 and all its' critical amendments will allow market forces, rather than government regulators to set prices for services in competitive markets. It does NOT raise local telephone rates, but will assist to establish rules and policies that are equitable for all competitors, and achieve lease rates that are close to the truce cost of building, operating and maintaining the facilities.

It is time for governmental officials in Alaska to recognize that there are substantial benefits of open competition and which provides more consumer choices. It is absolutely necessary to move forward to a deregulatory framework, one that allows market forces to replace regulation and to quit subsidizing one competitor over another. When profitable customers are cherry picked by competitors and companies like ACS are left to serve the highest cost customers, universal service is put at risk. The RCA has also given the other guys (GCI) federal support dollars for service high-cost customers without them ever building, operating or maintaining one single high cost line in Alaska. These continued practices undermine the Telecommunications Act of promoting and advancing universal service.

As a voter, I encourage each & every one of you to represent my family and myself when you cast your vote on this important legislation. Please show your support today for the hearing on HB 111 and all its critical amendments.

Beverly A. Lemoine

When Arliss Sturgulewski on a GCI ad., saying about special interest groups. Who are the special interests group here Arliss? Arliss is saying something that most people don't know what she is saying here. GCI don't have to phone cable lines and they are paying less than other for the use of that cable.

ACS has to share its products and services with competing companies like GCI, and this will encourage companies like ACS to spend on capital projects to improve advanced deployment of advanced telecommunications equipment to service Alaskans. This actually discourages companies like ACS to invest on NEW advanced telecommunications equipment to service Alaskans because ACS would have to share this NEW technology with competing companies like GCI, AT&T and TelAlaska and ACS would not a good return on their investment. Companies like GCI, do not have to invest on any capital projects and advanced telecommunications equipment to service Alaskans because they can get it from ACS for below cost. So why should ACS invest on anything. Your in business to make money, not share investments. Who ends up suffering? We Alaskans, the public.

This is what i sent them.
Gilbert Carrillo
8301 Majestic Dr.
Anchorage Ak 99504
907-333-0101

I support HB 111 and all its amendments! Give us a chance... make it fair and we will make it better for Alaska. How about letting ACS develop a cable television customer base and lease GCI equipment for pennies, which would enable us to provide ACS cable television service to OUR customers at a much lower cost of service than GCI could provide? Do you think GCI could stay in the cable business if they had to foot the bill to maintain all the equipment necessary to provide service to their customers AND ours? This is exactly the scenario in regard to the telecom side of our relationship with GCI. They lease our equipment for pennies, which enables them charge their customers less which, of course, brings them more customers for less money!

Pam Estep
ACS Payroll
907.564.1552

Molly Aichner
8221 Sue St.
Anchorage, AK 99502

May 15, 2003

Rep. Lesil McGuire

Dear Rep. Lesil McGuire,
Subject: HB 111

I am writing today to support HB 111 with all amendments. I have worked in the telecommunications industry for 6 years, in which the changes have been extreme. I am all for fair and equal competition, but currently this is not happening. Fair competition does not mean disabling the incumbent local exchange carrier. Level the playing field so ACS can really compete in this industry mean fair wholesale rates, unbundling and less restrictive tariffs.

The bottom line is Alaskan jobs are at jeopardy, if these debilitating regulations continue many families from Fairbanks to Juneau will feel the downsizing of this company.

Sincerely,

Molly Aichner
One of the many Alaska Communication Systems employees

Representative Lesil McGuire,

I would like to voice my dismay at HB111 not being approved with **ALL AMENDMENTS** attached. I am a lifelong Alaskan and ACS employee, and am very concerned about the current situation with the RCA. Deregulation has defenatly not worked thus far. Look at the California energy crisis for an example of what is going to happen here. If GCI is allowed to lease ACS's facilities for less than it costs ACS to build and maintain them, it will not be long before ACS is bankrupt. GCI can afford to sell phone service cheap because they get $10 federal money per line for maintenance which ACS must maintain for them. In addition ACS is required to lease their lines to GCI for $19, which is over $12 less than it costs ACS to build and maintain. And on top of that they just keep raising their cable TV rates which they have the Monopoly on. For example my fathers neighbor built a new house and wanted GCI service, they told him he first that he needed to sign up with ACS to have the copper line buried and then he could switch over to GCI for free. Where is the incentive for ACS to build anything? It has already been four years of this with the RCA and I don't think that ACS can last another four. The RCA is definitely on GCI's side. Remember the little ordeal with GCI flying the RCA higher-ups to it exclusive fishing lodge last year? When the only utility in Alaska that wants the RCA bill passed without amendments is GCI, there must be something going on. I love living in Alaska and would hate to lose my job and have to move my family outside. Lets make competition in Alaska fair and impartial, only then will both companies invest in our infrastructure.

Curtis Dunham
2906 Doris St.
Anchorage, Alaska
99517
(907) 274-2878

TESTIMONY OF KRISTI CATLIN
HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
HOUSE BILL 111
MAY 15, 2003

Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee. For the record, my name is Kristi Catlin, Director of Government Affairs for AT&T Alascom, with its main business address at 210 E. Bluff Drive, Anchorage, Alaska 99501. Thank you for the opportunity to testify at this hearing.

Throughout this session, AT&T Alascom has consistently supported its Dominance amendment language, while reserving its opinion about the other proposed amendments until our internal analysis could be completed on those amendments. As you know, this amendment process has taken on a life of its own, and what started out to be a reasonable request for market definitions has now turned into a far-reaching amendment, parts of which cannot be supported by AT&T Alascom.

With that in mind, and after a great deal of thought and consideration, as a result of some of the changes that have been added to the amendment, AT&T Alascom intends to separate its pursuit of a definition of Dominance from the legislation re-authorizing the RCA. We continue to believe, however, that regulatory relief from Dominance is essential and must be dealt with as soon as possible. If a market is truly opened to competition, regulation should be decreased rather than increased. Under the current circumstances, we believe that our best course of action is to pursue the opening of a docket at the RCA that will deal exclusively with the issue of interexchange Dominance.

For these reasons, AT&T Alascom will support a clean bill with a 2-year reauthorization, which is the term recommended by legislative audit. The Commission's unwillingness to reduce regulation in competitive markets, however, must change. Until we are able to gauge the new Commission's ability and willingness to work toward reduced regulation in competitive markets, AT&T believes that a 3-4 year extension of the RCA is too long.

Thank you once again for this opportunity to present our testimony. I will be happy to answer any questions you may have.



ALASKA STATE HOMEBUILDERS ASSOCIATION

Alaska State Home Building Association
8301 Schoon, Ste 200
Anchorage, Alaska 99518

RESOLUTION 03-2 "A Resolution of Support of Alaska HB 111 with No Amendments"

WHEREAS, The Alaska State Home Building Association supports the basic concept that telecommunications is one of the most important infrastructures components we have in Alaska, and;

WHEREAS, The Alaska State Home Building Association supports the Regulatory Commission of Alaska, which has always protected consumers and deftly implemented complex regulatory principals that directly benefit our communities, and;

WHEREAS, The Alaska State Home Building Association are concerned about proposed special interest legislation that will increase consumer and business local phone rates. Although the special interests are pushing this legislation are calling it pro-competitive, the proposed legislation is both anti-competitive and anti-consumer and;

WHEREAS, the proposed legislation has been added to HB 111 to extend the life of the Regulatory Commission of Alaska. Please protect ratepayers throughout Alaska by extending the life of the Regulatory Commission with no special interest amendments, and;

NOW, THERFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Home Building Association's Board of Directors supports HB 111 with no amendments;

Adopted, this the 15th day of May, 2003.

Signed:_____
President

Attest: _____
Secretary or Treasurer

Subject: HB111
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 13:58:56 -0800
From: "Simmons, Celestina" <csimmons@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat
"'Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.sta
"'Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.sta
"'Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.s

> My name is Celestina Simmons, and I am taking this opportunity to write
> you regarding HB111. As it stand this will be the demise of the company
> I work for. My family has lived in Alaska for almost thirty years, and I
> have worked for my present employer for twenty five of those years.
>
> I am one of the employees that took a leading roll years ago when ATU came
> up for sale the first time. I made commercials for one of the then
> interested companies, Citizen Utilities. My commercials at that time
> addressed competition for Anchorage.
>
> True competition is not what is happening here. My company has to ask for
> permission of the RCA to combine any service we wish to offer our
> customers when our competitors do not have to go before the RCA for the
> same request. Leasing of our lines is also done on a very uneven scale.
> Example: you are leasing office space at the rate of thirty dollars a
> month and the Federal government decides that you have to turn around and
> lease your space to someone else for nineteen dollars a month. All the
> maintenance of the office is done by you and that cost cannot be passed on
> to your client. How do you keep up? A level competitive playing field?
>
>
> This is but a small example of what we have had to live with, and it has
> come to a point that things have to change. Competition is good for
> everyone, and it keeps us all on our toes. But like any boxer in a ring we
> can not put up a good fight with our hands chained behind are backs. With
> fair and open competition, if we still can't make it, then shame on us. We
> deserve that chance.
>
> Please put the amendments back on HB111. All we our asking for is fair
> competition.
>
>
>
>
> Celes Simmons
7401 Hillside Way
Anchorage Alaska 99516
>
>
>

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Subject: House Bill 111 With Amendments
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 14:12:24 -0800
From: "Crone, Elaine L." <ECrone@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.sta
"'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat
"'Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.sta
"'Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.s

Please pass this bill With Amendments. It will not raise ACS telephone rates and it will provide a more level playing field for GCI and ACS, which the RCA has not been willing to do so far. In a more competitive environment both companies could afford to invest in newer technologies and upgrade their current equipment for the benefit of all Alaskan customers. It is unfair to force one company to subsidize another through below cost wholesale rates, longer depreciation schedules, as well as require tariff restrictions that don't allow ACS to bundle their customer offerings for all services in one call center, as well as other restrictions that only apply to ACS, not GCI.

I have lived and worked in Alaska for over 20 years and seen many changes in the telecommunications industry. I've never seen such an unfair regulatory commission before.

Thank you for your consideration.
Elaine Crone
Sitka

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Subject: HB111
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 14:16:10 -0800
From: "Hamsley, Larry E." <lhamsley@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

I have been employed by local telephone service providers for 34 years in Fairbanks. For the past few years I have seen a dramatic change in the approach to providing quality telephone service. As a present employee of ACS, we as acompany are not able to make decisions based on the desire to provide expected quality service to the local subscribers. This is due to the unfairness of current regulation. I provide network engineering for Fairbanks, Delta, Eielson AFB, Ft. Wainwright, Nenana, and the Kenai Peninsula. My duties include upgrades to the existing network and expansion to allow for growth. For the last few years I have not had a network project approved. This is not due to a lack of ACS's desire to continue building and expanding a state of the art network. It is due to the fact that a competitor can sit like a vulture watching a dying animal and unfairly take advantage of any facilities on a pick and choose basis without risking anything. How can any law be justified that allows this? Under the current regulation GCI can build transport facilities to serve the cream of the crop customers and not be forced to share the cost of serving all customers. I'll stop at this point because I know you are extremely busy but please pass HB111 with amendments and level the playing field for competition.

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Subject: Fair Competition
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 14:25:18 -0800
From: "Handy, Steve" <Steve.Handy@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat
"'Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.sta
"'Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.sta
"'Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.st

Dear Distinguished Representatives;

After moving to Alaska I never once missed illogical politics. The general population, my friends, neighbors, seemingly everyone operates with what seems to be overlaying sense of what is right, fair and logical. I presume you may be nodding your head as you read this, concurring with this sentiment. GCI has not presented itself as a company operating in this manner. If you are truly knowledgeable as to what is happening here in the trenches where we work, where we actually install and maintain most the machines GCI uses to transport their traffic and then see and hear them announce publicly that ACS is deceitful, you would know from where the real deceit comes. Please do what is fundamentally right - Please vote to support HB 111 and all its critical amendments.

I have worked in the Telecommunications industry for many years and I find myself in a situation where my company is not allowed to compete.... my job security, retirement, and future are at stake. Please support HB 111 and all its critical amendments.

ACS should be allowed to compete by the same rules as GCI. For example, ACS should be allowed to bundle together regulated and unregulated services such as local, long distance, Internet and Wireless (the cable monopoly- GCI- has been able to do this for over seven years). I encourage you to support HB 111 and all its critical amendments.

What we have witnessed through full-page ads, radio spots, Internet sites, and political maneuvering is an attempt to maintain a structure, which requires ACS to subsidize its chief competitor, GCI, the cable monopolist. This subsidy takes root in lease rates that are a mere fraction of the true cost ACS has incurred. I encourage you to support HB 111 and all its critical amendments.

When House Bill 111 as amended passes, Alaskan telecommunications consumers will have real competition for the first time. Competition which allows all service providers to offer their "best" deals because all the competing companies will be operating under the same set of rules on a level playing field.

As a voter in your district, I encourage you to represent my family and myself when you cast your vote on this important legislation. Please support HB 111 and all its critical amendments.

Forcing ACS to subsidize its competitors is not competition. Please vote to support HB 111 and all its critical amendments.

Sincerely,
Steve Handy
ACS Wireless / Southeast
Phone - (907) 321-8266
2092 Jordan Avenue, Suite 550
Juneau, AK 99801

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Subject: re: HB111 with amendments
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 14:27:25 -0800
From: "Misuck, Regan E." <bmisuck@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

Hello, I am a customer and an employee of Alaska Communications Systems, my family works at ACS as well. As a Customer Service Representative, I speak with customers on a daily basis. The majority of their complaints center around the regulations imposed on ACS by the RCA. One of the most frequently asked questions I hear is, "How come I can call GCI and get all the information I need at one time but when I call ACS I get transferred to three different departments to get the information I need? Don't you people know what you are doing?" I urge you to support HB111 with all the amendments so that we can give our customers the best customer service available. Thank you, Regan

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May 15, 2003

Dear Representatives,

My name is Brenda Harris and I am writing to ask for your support for HB-111. I am a single mother and I too work for ACS. I have worked in the telephone industry for the last 13 years. In the last 4 years I have watched the company that I work for struggle to survive. It is very maddening to me not to be able to voice my opinion because I work for the "supposedly" leading Telephone Company.

I have watched GCI slam us into the ground on every issue. I have watched the Anchorage Daily News print biased material. I have read letters to the editor from angry customers who cannot get telephone service and it's always the fault of ACS. We are responsible for everything that goes wrong in the State of Alaska when it comes to Telecommunication problems.

This infuriates me as an employee, and as a citizen. There is nothing fair about the current requirements of ACS. Why should ACS have to lay equipment and turn around and lease it for a lower rate than it cost our company? Especially when GCI owns a majority of the market. Right now we spend half of our time taking care of GCI customers and our own are neglected. This does nothing for ACS as a company. This is an all around loosing battle for ACS and is not fair. It does nothing for the public and does nothing for our company.

GCI is the monopoly not only in the telephone industry but also in the cable business.

Subject: HBIII WITH AMENDMENTS
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 14:38:58 -0800
From: "Leah Merritt" <leah@ctcak.net>
To: <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us>

I support HB III with amendments!

Leah Merritt
Cordova, AK 99574

Subject: HB111
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 15:00:38 -0800
From: "McCullough, Shawn" <smccullo@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

Dear Ms.McGuire
> *I am writing to ask that you fight for the AMENDMENTS to*
> *HB111. These amendments insure that fair competition will finally begin in*
> *the telecommunication's industry here in Alaska. I fear that if these*
> *amendments do not get voted in that the company I work for ACS will not be*
> *in business in the near future. I believe that there will be layoffs and*
> *many good paying jobs will be lost. This is not what Alaska needs. We need*
> *more jobs with good pay and benefits. I feel that the RCA has been coerced*
> *into a one sided effort in the telecommunication's industry. The main*
> *competitor GCI has been given a free ride for seven years. While Acs is*
> *subsidizing their only competitor. Is this Really the competition that*
the
> *fed.'s wanted ? I think that now that GCI has a very big percentage of the*
> *market that they should have to pay for it. Why let GCI get their way*
again
> *with the RCA. They are the only ones to gain in this effort to pass the*
RCA
> *with out the amendments. The public will only feel the loss of maintenance*
> *on the lines that serve both Gci and ACS customers. So far to date there*
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> *been no benefit to the customer in this so called Competitive market. The*
> *same lines that served them before are still in use but getting older and*
> *older. Who will pay to replace them in the future GCI?*
> *I Highly doubt this. GCI needs to step up to the plate and earn their*
market
> *share.*
> *Please support this issue.*
> *Shawn McCullough*

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Subject: HB 111
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 15:17:16 -0800
From: chstiver@alaska.net
To: Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us

Hello,
I'm concerned about HB 111 not just as an employee of ACS, but also as a consumer. I want it pass w/ amendments.
I can't get dsl where I live at in Anchorage & am stuck w/ dialup unless I want to pay GCI for cable tv to get a decent price for cable Internet which can't be used for much downloading due to the low monthly bandwidth allotment. ACS will never be able to upgrade any of the lines in my area, & also lots of other areas of Anchorage, when they spend all that money just to have lease the lines out to GCI at a much lower rate. If a company can't make a profit on investments, they aren't going to make those investments. That's not real fair for me as a consumer. There's lot lots of customers stuck on slow dialup connections due to old phone lines or service too far away to get faster dsl over phone lines & we're never going to get it unless some company invests in the phone lines. GCI would never invest lots of money in phone lines just to let someone else lease those same lines for so much less than they invested money in.
Please take this into account when you consider this bill.
thank you,
robert stiver

Subject: Please support amendments in HB111.
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 15:55:58 -0800
From: "Dan Crowson" <trapperdan@hotmail.com>
To: Representative_Lesil_Mcguire@legis.state.ak.us
CC: Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.state.ak.us

Dear Chairmens;
I'm a ACS telephone installer/repairman. I have worked for ATU, now ACS, 11 years. I now need your help! HB 111, without it's amendments, will bankrupt my company, ACS.
We need these 3 amendments;
1) Deprecation - GCI is allowed to deprecate their equipment in 12 years, ACS is required to wait 30 years! Not fair or level playing field.
2) Bundling - Currently, GCI can use 1 customer service agent for all its services, we at ACS are required to transfer our customers to 5 different service reps.
3) Universal Fund - GCI gets $10.00 for every line, to build new infrastructure. No new telephone cable has been buried anywhere in Anchorage.
In conclusion, GCI made millions last year, on Anchorage customers. ACS lost millions. Please support amendments in HB 111.
Thank you for your time, Dan Crowson

Dan Crowson Pobox 870066 Wasilla, AK 99687 373-7674
Phy; 1460 E Patty Dr. Cell 240-6653

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http://clinic.mcafee.com/clinic/ibuy/campaign.asp?cid=3963

Subject: HB111
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 14:56:25 -0900
From: "Michael Henchman" <farnorth@usa.com>
To: Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us

Dear Representative McGuire:

I am a 25-year Fairbanksan who is very concerned about the recent "telecom wars" between ACS and GCI. As you and your fellow committee members are currently working on the HB111 issue, I am compelled to add my voice to those persons who are supporting the effort to pass this bill *with the amendments* that correct the economic inequities between competitive local exchange carriers (CLEC), primarily GCI, and incumbent carriers like ACS.

For the record, I am not opposed to telecom competition; not in its truest business sense. It is clear to me, however, that CLECs survive by leasing networks that have become advantageous for them to use, in terms of the below-cost access they receive. And this situation is perhaps no worse than right here in Alaska, wherein the RCA has clearly gone beyond the call of duty in consistently setting policy which favors GCI far above what is reasonable to ensure fair competition. I have also been both disturbed and offended by the tone of GCI's campaign to discredit ACS as a "monopoly", when GCI clearly is doing so because it is attempting to protect its over-weighted advantage.

These are the disparities I find most objectionable, but this is not an exclusive list:

1. The FCC has guidelines that suggest depreciation should be accelerated to approximately 15 years, to spur investment in new telecom technology as it develops, yet ACS has its hands tied with a 30-year depreciation factor. GCI is allowed a much shorter period of 12 years, less than half of ACS.
2. GCI clearly holds a monopoly on cable TV and can charge whatever it wishes. ACS is forbidden to enter the cable TV market itself, or to resell GCI's signal, and has its rates set by the RCA. And GCI can subsidize their phone rates with profits from their cable TV monopoly, while ACS, as a regulated carrier, cannot subsidize its phones rates with any deregulated activity.
3. ACS receives a federal subsidy per rural line to offset the cost of installing and maintaining service in remote areas. When GCI leases one of those ACS lines to serve its customer, the RCA has mandated that GCI can receive that subsidy - even though ACS is required to continue maintenance on that line, an even deeper subsidization of GCI than already guaranteed by its apparent protector, the RCA. It's like being forced to let my neighbor drive and wear out my car, for a pittance, while I am required to pay for gas and repairs. This is patently unfair.

Ultimately, the inability of incumbent carriers to equitably recoup costs associated with leasing their lines and equipment, along with the requirement that they must open any new facilities which they build to such unbalanced competition, means that investment and development is stymied. It is already happening with large carriers in the Lower 48, who are at less of a clear disadvantage than is ACS at the hands of the RCA. When this happens, consumers lose.

I strongly urge you to allow TRUE and FAIR competition to flourish. This means that HB111 should pass with its amendments, so that the competitive telecom arena is rebalanced. If allowed to continue unabated, the current RCA policy will have a deleterious effect on local service in larger communities, and it will most certainly have a disastrous effect on remote communities, for whom it will eventually become too expensive to serve when the CLECs do not have to pay to incumbent carriers the true costs associated with those customers.

Sincerely,

Michael Henchman
Fairbanks

455-6434
farnorth@usa.com

--

Sign-up for your own FREE Personalized E-mail at Mail.com
http://www.mail.com/?sr=signup

Subject: HB111
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 16:24:18 -0800
From: jon.bowne@acsalaska.net
To: Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us

Representative McGuire,

Please do not fall for the disingenuous rhetoric that GCI is publishing and broadcasting statewide. The RCA consistently has given GCI unfair advantage over ACS. I believe in competition, but on a level playing field.

--ACS is mandated to build out, operate and maintain the telephone network infrastructure from which GCI is allowed to lease lines at below ACS cost.

--After leasing dial tone from ACS, GCI can charge whatever they wish for that service. ACS must sell their own service at the established regulated rate.

--GCI can subsidize their phone service with monies from their cable telephone monopoly, or from any other source. ACS cannot subsidize regulated telephone service from any other source, period! GCI can; ACS cannot.

--GCI can bundle services (i.e. cable TV, Wireless, Internet) to make an attractive marketing package. ACS cannot add a deregulated service to any marketing bundle. GCI can; ACS cannot.

--ACS receives a federal subsidy per rural line to offset the cost of installing and maintaining service in remote areas. When GCI takes an ACS customer, the RCA has mandated that GCI can receive that subsidy - even though ACS is required to continue maintaining those lines.

--The communications industry is changing rapidly; equipment bought today can be obsolete in five years or less (FCC guidelines are ten years; current reality is five). RCA mandates that ACS must depreciate its equipment on a thirty-year schedule. It says that GCI can depreciate its equipment on a twelve-year schedule.

--ACS is forced to lease its plant to GCI at below cost. Neither ACS nor anyone else is allowed to lease any part of the GCI cable television network.

--There is no point at which GCI stops receiving special treatment. They have over fifty percent of the local Anchorage market right now. They can go to 100% and all their special privileges stay in place.

Can a reasonable person honestly say that these rules and restrictions are fair? They are a disincentive to growth and expansion and, while bad for the industry in general; they have a disproportionately adverse effect on the most remote customers. I hope you recognize the damage that the RCA has done to the telecommunications business in Alaska. Pass HB111 with the amendments in place and allow all parties fair, market driven competition.

Thank you for your kind attention.

Jon Bowne
460-1532 (work)
451-7469 (home)

Subject: HB 1111
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 20:39:33 -0400
From: Uptilnow@aol.com
To: Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us, Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.state.ak.us, Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us, Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us, Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.state.ak.us, Rpresentative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us, Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.state.ak.us

May 15, 2003

Dear Honorable Representatives,

My name is Stacie Byrns. I am a single mother and I work for Alaska Communications Systems. I am writing to you in hopes that you will support HB 111 WITH all amendments attached.

The reason that I am asking you to support this bill is not only because I work for Alaska Communications Systems (ACS), but also because without fair competition in the Telecommunications Area the customer (YOU and I) become caught in the middle. When there is a fair and equal competition field then WE come out on top.

I have always prided myself on being fair and just to everyone no matter what the situation as such when I see a full-page ad or hear a radio spot that is filled with untruths then I get upset. This political maneuvering is nothing more then an attempt to maintain a structure, which requires ACS to subsidize its chief competitor, GCI. This subsidy takes root in lease rates that are a mere fraction of the true cost ACS has incurred.

Why would ACS raise it Local and/or Business Customer Rates by $100 million annually? Donâ€™t you think that this is a little opperserd? That would only encourage our customers to turn to GCI for service. ACS would raise its interconnect fees so that GCI was paying a compensatory rate for the use of the ACS Network. This to me would be a fair playing field.

When House Bill 111 as amended passes, then Alaskan telecommunications consumers will have real competition for the first time. Competition which allows all service providers to offer their â€œBESTâ€ deals because all the competing companies will be operating under the same set of rules on a level playing field.

Thank you for voting FOR HB 111 WITH all amendments.

Sincerely,
Stacie Byrns

Subject: HB 111 WITH AMENDMENTS
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 16:48:50 -0800
From: "Clark, Susan" <sclark@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat
"'Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.sta
"'Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.sta
"'Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.s
CC: "Larsen, Robert" <rlarsen@acsalaska.com>

Dear Representatives McGuire, Anderson, Ogg, Holm, Samuels, Gara and Gruenberg;

Thank you for your dedication in serving the citizens of Alaska. I write today to enlist your support for passing HB 111 WITH the Amendments. I am an employee at ACS. I work as a Customer Service Representative. I have worked here for 9 and 1/2 years. Customer Service is what I have done in one form or another for the past 38 years.

When I was younger, I thought about being a Doctor, a Nurse, a Teacher or a Lawyer. I got OJT training in all those fields as a parent and by working as a Bartender, a Cab Driver, a Cab Dispatcher and finally a Customer Service Representative in the Telecommunications industry in Anchorage Alaska. When I went to work for the phone company I received extensive (three months) training in the unique language of Telephony. However, the best preparation I had for providing Customer Service came from the years I spent tending Bar, driving a Cab, and dispatching Cabs (I really enjoyed telling the other drivers where to go). What I learned from all my years of working in those SERVICE industries was that my customers would only be my customers if I was able to provide the best customer service. My market could get those services from any place. They could order a bottle of beer or a Perrier from any bar. They could catch a ride in any flavor of Cab, and they could call any Cab company besides the one I worked for to arrange that ride. So what separated the Bar, or the Cab Company I worked for from all the rest? Customer Service! The playing field was pretty equal, and in NONE of those fields, did my competitors have the advantage of my company having to subsidize them to promote competition. By providing the best customer service, I was able to maintain a strong customer base. That kept my jobs and allowed me to raise three children as a single mom.

We need the RCA to be brought under control. We need to assure the citizens of Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Juneau (and I'm sure other markets in the future) that they will have choices. To me, that means that one company should not be forced to subsidize the cost of another company doing business. The competition needs to be in the arena of customer service. As long as ACS is forced to resell our facilities for less than it costs us to maintain them, with the result that GCI can forego customer service and just be "the cheapest telephone company in town", we do not have a level playing field. There is nothing to put the competition where it belongs which is in the arena of Customer Service.

I can make a great telephone. I can even repair that telephone. But I can't sell that telephone for less than it costs me to make it and still be here when somebody asks for a telephone. Please help level the playing field and pass HB 111 with the amendments that will do that. It's time GCI started competing on my level. They should have to try to provide real service, like I do. They should have to take care of customers, like I do. They should have to pay for the cost of doing business, like I do.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sue Clark.

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Subject: HB111 W/Amendments
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 18:18:43 -0800
From: "Perry & Jeannie Carter" <akstuf@acsalaska.net>
To: <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us>

Thank you for continuing to support HB111 W/Amendments.

Perry Carter
Anchorage, Ak

5-15-03

(Kevin Meyers

Please support HB 111 with amendments to ensure an open & fair competition to Alaskans -

FORREST CHARLTON

Box 112929

Anch AK 99511

5-15-03

Kevin Meyers

Please support HB 111 with amendments to ensure an open & fair competition to Alaskans -

Regina Charlton

Box 112929

Anch AK 99511

5-15-03

KEVIN MEYERS

Please support HB 111 with amendments to ensure an open & fair competition to Alaskans -

CAM CHARLTON

Box 112929
Anch AK 99511

5-15-03

House Judiciary Com.
Mc Guire

Please support HB 111 with amendments to ensure an open & fair competition to Alaskans -

FORREST CHARLTON

Box 112929
Anch AK 99511

Deanna C. Borgen
P.O. Box 244555
Anchorage, AK 99524

TO: ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
ATTN: House 24 Cheryll Heinze.

SUBJECT HB 111

Hi my name is Deanna Borgen I have worked in the Telecommunications industry for many years. I feel my job security, retirement and my family's well being and futures are at risk. If the amendments for HB111 are not kept in place I may lose my job.

When House Bill 111 as amended passes all Alaskan telecommunications consumers will have competition for the first time, and competing companies will have the same set of rules on a level playing field.

Please as a voter, I encourage you to represent my family and myself when you cast your VOTE on this important Legislation. Please Support HB 111 and all its critical Amendments.

Thank You
Deanna C. Borgen

May 13, 2003

Dear Bob Lynn,

I understand HB 111 is in danger of being stripped of all of its amendments I am writing to ask that your work to pass HB 111 with all of its amendments intact. This is crucial because if HB 111 passes without these amendments my job security + retirement are in jeopardy.

Respectfully,

Laurie Mack

6860 O'Malley

Anchorage, AK 99507

May 13, 2003

Dear Kevin Meyer,

I understand that HB 111 is in danger of being stripped of all its amendments. I am writing to ask that you work to pass HB 111 with all of its amendments intact. This is crucial because if HB 111 passes with out these amendments my job security + retirement are in jeopardy.

Respectfully,

Laurie Mack
6860 O'Malley
Anchorage, AK 99507

Subject: HBIII WITH AMENDMENTS
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 14:38:58 -0800
From: "Leah Merritt" <leah@ctcak.net>
To: <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us>

I support HB III with amendments!

Leah Merritt
Cordova, AK 99574

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Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 15:00:38 -0800
From: "McCullough, Shawn" <smccullo@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

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> *I Highly doubt this. GCI needs to step up to the plate and earn their*
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> *Please support this issue.*
> *Shawn McCullough*

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To: Representative_Lesil_Mcguire@legis.state.ak.us
CC: Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.state.ak.us

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Thank you for your time, Dan Crowson

Dan Crowson Pobox 870066 Wasilla, AK 99687 373-7674
Phy; 1460 E Patty Dr. Cell 240-6653

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Subject: HB111
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 14:56:25 -0900
From: "Michael Henchman" <farnorth@usa.com>
To: Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us

Dear Representative McGuire:

I am a 25-year Fairbanksan who is very concerned about the recent "telecom wars" between ACS and GCI. As you and your fellow committee members are currently working on the HB111 issue, I am compelled to add my voice to those persons who are supporting the effort to pass this bill *with the amendments* that correct the economic inequities between competitive local exchange carriers (CLEC), primarily GCI, and incumbent carriers like ACS.

For the record, I am not opposed to telecom competition; not in its truest business sense. It is clear to me, however, that CLECs survive by leasing networks that have become advantageous for them to use, in terms of the below-cost access they receive. And this situation is perhaps no worse than right here in Alaska, wherein the RCA has clearly gone beyond the call of duty in consistently setting policy which favors GCI far above what is reasonable to ensure fair competition. I have also been both disturbed and offended by the tone of GCI's campaign to discredit ACS as a "monopoly", when GCI clearly is doing so because it is attempting to protect its over-weighted advantage.

These are the disparities I find most objectionable, but this is not an exclusive list:

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3. ACS receives a federal subsidy per rural line to offset the cost of installing and maintaining service in remote areas. When GCI leases one of those ACS lines to serve its customer, the RCA has mandated that GCI can receive that subsidy - even though ACS is required to continue maintenance on that line, an even deeper subsidization of GCI than already guaranteed by its apparent protector, the RCA. It's like being forced to let my neighbor drive and wear out my car, for a pittance, while I am required to pay for gas and repairs. This is patently unfair.

Ultimately, the inability of incumbent carriers to equitably recoup costs associated with leasing their lines and equipment, along with the requirement that they must open any new facilities which they build to such unbalanced competition, means that investment and development is stymied. It is already happening with large carriers in the Lower 48, who are at less of a clear disadvantage than is ACS at the hands of the RCA. When this happens, consumers lose.

I strongly urge you to allow TRUE and FAIR competition to flourish. This means that HB111 should pass with its amendments, so that the competitive telecom arena is rebalanced. If allowed to continue unabated, the current RCA policy will have a deleterious effect on local service in larger communities, and it will most certainly have a disastrous effect on remote communities, for whom it will eventually become too expensive to serve when the CLECs do not have to pay to incumbent carriers the true costs associated with those customers.

Sincerely,

Michael Henchman
Fairbanks

455-6434
farnorth@usa.com

--

Sign-up for your own FREE Personalized E-mail at Mail.com
http://www.mail.com/?sr=signup

Subject: HB111
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 16:24:18 -0800
From: jon.bowne@acsalaska.net
To: Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us

Representative McGuire,

Please do not fall for the disingenuous rhetoric that GCI is publishing and broadcasting statewide. The RCA consistently has given GCI unfair advantage over ACS. I believe in competition, but on a level playing field.

--ACS is mandated to build out, operate and maintain the telephone network infrastructure from which GCI is allowed to lease lines at below ACS cost.

--After leasing dial tone from ACS, GCI can charge whatever they wish for that service. ACS must sell their own service at the established regulated rate.

--GCI can subsidize their phone service with monies from their cable telephone monopoly, or from any other source. ACS cannot subsidize regulated telephone service from any other source, period! GCI can; ACS cannot.

--GCI can bundle services (i.e. cable TV, Wireless, Internet) to make an attractive marketing package. ACS cannot add a deregulated service to any marketing bundle. GCI can; ACS cannot.

--ACS receives a federal subsidy per rural line to offset the cost of installing and maintaining service in remote areas. When GCI takes an ACS customer, the RCA has mandated that GCI can receive that subsidy - even though ACS is required to continue maintaining those lines.

--The communications industry is changing rapidly; equipment bought today can be obsolete in five years or less (FCC guidelines are ten years; current reality is five). RCA mandates that ACS must depreciate its equipment on a thirty-year schedule. It says that GCI can depreciate its equipment on a twelve-year schedule.

--ACS is forced to lease its plant to GCI at below cost. Neither ACS nor anyone else is allowed to lease any part of the GCI cable television network.

--There is no point at which GCI stops receiving special treatment. They have over fifty percent of the local Anchorage market right now. They can go to 100% and all their special privileges stay in place.

Can a reasonable person honestly say that these rules and restrictions are fair? They are a disincentive to growth and expansion and, while bad for the industry in general; they have a disproportionately adverse effect on the most remote customers. I hope you recognize the damage that the RCA has done to the telecommunications business in Alaska. Pass HB111 with the amendments in place and allow all parties fair, market driven competition.

Thank you for your kind attention.

Jon Bowne
460-1532 (work)
451-7469 (home)

Subject: HB 1111
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 20:39:33 -0400
From: Uptilnow@aol.com
To: Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us, Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.state.ak.us, Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us, Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us, Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.state.ak.us, Rpresentative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us, Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.state.ak.us

May 15, 2003

Dear Honorable Representatives,

My name is Stacie Byrns. I am a single mother and I work for Alaska Communications Systems. I am writing to you in hopes that you will support HB 111 WITH all amendments attached.

The reason that I am asking you to support this bill is not only because I work for Alaska Communications Systems (ACS), but also because without fair competition in the Telecommunications Area the customer (YOU and I) become caught in the middle. When there is a fair and equal competition field then WE come out on top.

I have always prided myself on being fair and just to everyone no matter what the situation as such when I see a full-page ad or hear a radio spot that is filled with untruths then I get upset. This political maneuvering is nothing more then an attempt to maintain a structure, which requires ACS to subsidize its chief competitor, GCI. This subsidy takes root in lease rates that are a mere fraction of the true cost ACS has incurred.

Why would ACS raise it Local and/or Business Customer Rates by $100 million annually? Donâ€™t you think that this is a little opperserd? That would only encourage our customers to turn to GCI for service. ACS would raise its interconnect fees so that GCI was paying a compensatory rate for the use of the ACS Network. This to me would be a fair playing field.

When House Bill 111 as amended passes, then Alaskan telecommunications consumers will have real competition for the first time. Competition which allows all service providers to offer their â€œBESTâ€ deals because all the competing companies will be operating under the same set of rules on a level playing field.

Thank you for voting FOR HB 111 WITH all amendments.

Sincerely,
Stacie Byrns

Subject: HB 111 WITH AMENDMENTS
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 16:48:50 -0800
From: "Clark, Susan" <sclark@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat
"'Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.sta
"'Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.sta
"'Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.s
CC: "Larsen, Robert" <rlarsen@acsalaska.com>

Dear Representatives McGuire, Anderson, Ogg, Holm, Samuels, Gara and Gruenberg;

Thank you for your dedication in serving the citizens of Alaska. I write today to enlist your support for passing HB 111 WITH the Amendments. I am an employee at ACS. I work as a Customer Service Representative. I have worked here for 9 and 1/2 years. Customer Service is what I have done in one form or another for the past 38 years.

When I was younger, I thought about being a Doctor, a Nurse, a Teacher or a Lawyer. I got OJT training in all those fields as a parent and by working as a Bartender, a Cab Driver, a Cab Dispatcher and finally a Customer Service Representative in the Telecommunications industry in Anchorage Alaska. When I went to work for the phone company I received extensive (three months) training in the unique language of Telephony. However, the best preparation I had for providing Customer Service came from the years I spent tending Bar, driving a Cab, and dispatching Cabs (I really enjoyed telling the other drivers where to go). What I learned from all my years of working in those SERVICE industries was that my customers would only be my customers if I was able to provide the best customer service. My market could get those services from any place. They could order a bottle of beer or a Perrier from any bar. They could catch a ride in any flavor of Cab, and they could call any Cab company besides the one I worked for to arrange that ride. So what separated the Bar, or the Cab Company I worked for from all the rest? Customer Service! The playing field was pretty equal, and in NONE of those fields, did my competitors have the advantage of my company having to subsidize them to promote competition. By providing the best customer service, I was able to maintain a strong customer base. That kept my jobs and allowed me to raise three children as a single mom.

We need the RCA to be brought under control. We need to assure the citizens of Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Juneau (and I'm sure other markets in the future) that they will have choices. To me, that means that one company should not be forced to subsidize the cost of another company doing business. The competition needs to be in the arena of customer service. As long as ACS is forced to resell our facilities for less than it costs us to maintain them, with the result that GCI can forego customer service and just be "the cheapest telephone company in town", we do not have a level playing field. There is nothing to put the competition where it belongs which is in the arena of Customer Service.

I can make a great telephone. I can even repair that telephone. But I can't sell that telephone for less than it costs me to make it and still be here when somebody asks for a telephone. Please help level the playing field and pass HB 111 with the amendments that will do that. It's time GCI started competing on my level. They should have to try to provide real service, like I do. They should have to take care of customers, like I do. They should have to pay for the cost of doing business, like I do.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sue Clark.

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Subject: HB111 W/Amendments
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 18:18:43 -0800
From: "Perry & Jeannie Carter" <akstuf@acsalaska.net>
To: <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us>

Thank you for continuing to support HB111 W/Amendments.

Perry Carter
Anchorage, Ak

5-15-03

(Kevin Meyers

Please support HB 111 with amendments to ensure an open & fair competition to Alaskans -

FORREST CHARLTON

Box 112929

Anch Ak 99511

5-15-03

Kevin Meyers

Please support HB 111 with amendments to ensure an open & fair competition to Alaskans -

Regina Charlton

Box 112929

Anch Ak 99511

5-15-03

KEVIN MEYERS

Please support HB 111 with amendments to ensure an open & fair competition to Alaskans -

CAM CHARLTON

Box 112929
Anch ak 99511

5-15-03

House Judiciary Com.
Mc Guire

Please support HB 111 with amendments to ensure an open & fair competition to Alaskans -

FORREST CHARLTON

Box 112929
Anch Ak 99511

Deanna C. Borgen
P.O. Box 244555
Anchorage, AK 99524

TO: ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
ATTN: House 24 Cheryll Heinze.

SUBJECT HB 111

Hi my name is Deanna Borgen I have worked in the Telecommunications industry for many years. I feel my job security, retirement and my family's well being and futures are at risk. If the amendments for HB111 are not kept in place I may lose my job.

When House Bill 111 as amended passes all Alaskan telecommunications consumers will have competition for the first time, and competing companies will have the same set of rules on a level playing field.

Please as a voter, I encourage you to represent my family and myself when you cast your VOTE on this important Legislation. Please Support H.B 111 and all its critical Amendments.

Thank You
Deanna C. Borgen

May 13, 2003

Dear Bob Lynn,

I understand HB 111 is in danger of being stripped of all of its amendments I am writing to ask that you work to pass HB 111 with all of its amendments intact. This is crucial because if HB 111 passes without these amendments my job security + retirement are in jeopardy.

Respectfully,

Laurie Mack
6860 O'Malley
Anchorage, AK 99507

Subject: Please Support HB111 With Ammendments
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 11:37:53 -0800
From: "Rasor, Holly E." <hrasor@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat
"'Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.sta
"'Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.sta
"'Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.s

Dear Honorable Representatives,

My Name is Holly Rasor I have lived here in Alaska since I was 5 years old. I am now 24 years old I work for ACS, before I worked here I never understood what competion really meant. Now I might be biased but what I see happening does not seem fair at all.

Right now all I see is a company taking advantage of unfair competion. By GCI using our lines that we have to sell to them at a cheaper price and them turning around and selling our lines to their customers at a even lower rate. Then us having to fix them for free! Where is the fairness or the competion in that. What is going to happen to all of the customers when ACS has to go out of business becasue of some unfair regulations.

Then not only will those unfair regulations have destroyed the lively hood of me and my family but others as well. I urge you to support HB111 WITH AMMENDMENTS. It is the fair and right thing to do. Compentition is fun and a great thing to witness, showing which company has better quaility and more innovative ideas but only if it is done fair. Please help us by supporting this.

Thank you for your time and consideration

Holly Rasor
564-1123

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Subject: Support for HB 111
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 11:39:57 -0800
From: "Torkelson, Shari" <storkels@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat
"'Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.sta
"'Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.sta
"'Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.s

To my Legislators,
I am a registered voter and long time ACS employee.
I support HB 111 not only as an employee of ACS, but as a consumer of utilities.
GCI has been given the leading edge in communications by "unfair competition legislation".
This needs to be corrected and HB 111 and all its ammendments is critical in bringing true
competition to Alaska. In my years here, GCI always advertises fair competition, when in fact
my experience been the opposite. Their court record is proof of that.
They monopolize the cable TV industry here in Anchorage! And their rates reflect that.
GCI has a fair share of the market.
They fought for years to prevent ACS from entering the long distance market.
We need competition to be fair!
Please support HB 111.

Shari Torkelson
Network Design Engineer
ACS Network Engineering
Phone 907-564-1844
Fax 907-564-8552

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Subject: hb111
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 11:40:28 -0800
From: "Berkley, Stacy" <sberkley@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

I am hoping by writing you my concerns about the bill HB111 with amendments will be looked at seriously. My family has been apart of Alaska for over 75years they have seen things come and go. My family has been with this Alaska Company all of there lives so to see and hear the things that are happening to this company is dreadful. Unfair competition has to go, and by passing this bill will help do that. Alaska Communication System welcomes competition but it must be fair competition it must be equal. And if other companies want to use or resources they should be able to but they must pay a full price just like any other customer. So please don't be swayed by the negative ads in the paper by our competition but fight back and say "What's fair is fair" HB111 with amendments will be passed.

Thank You
Stacy Berkley

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Subject: HB111
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 11:41:01 -0800
From: "Sylvia, Trena L." <TSylvia@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

Representatives for Interior Alaska
And
House Finance Committee Members

Re: HB111

I would like to first take the time to thank you for reading my letter.

My request for you simply is to support HB 111 and all of its amendments. Over the last couple of years, I have noticed an increase in unfair rules and regulations limiting my companies' competitiveness. This makes it increasingly hard to maintain a level of job security for fellow co-workers and myself. We all offer a great deal to our community. I have establish myself in the community through my involvement in 4-H. Having raised two daughters in Fairbanks, and still having one daughter starting her 8th grade year; job security is a vital part of my families life. My family also provides horses for 4-H members in our community to use, to learn the value of working with animals. Again, this is something I could not do without my job.

I love working at ACS. Never have I ever worked for a company with so much compassion toward their employee's or customers. It would be a tremendous loss to Alaska if HB 111 did not pass with the amendments.

We must be allowed to compete fairly, by the same rules and guidelines as GCI. When House Bill 111 as amended passes, I feel, our state will for the first time have real competition in telecommunications.

My family as voters in your district encourages you to represent us when you cast your vote in this important legislation. Please support HB111 and all its critical amendments.

Thank you,
Trena Sylvia
Community Member
And
ACS Employee

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Subject: **HB 111 WITH AMENDMENTS-SUPPORT IT PLEASE!**
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 12:42:37 -0700 (PDT)
From: Michael Mandregan <mmandregan@yahoo.com>
To: Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us, Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.state.ak.us, Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us, Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us, Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.state.ak.us, Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us, Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.state.ak.us

Dear Committee Members;

Please, bring fairness into this "competition".

I have been employed by ACS for 9 years. The reality of how negatively the RCA's unfairness has effected ACS' bottom line is hard to describe. We are honest hard workers here at ACS. We support competition. It is in my nature to compete, but competition is meaningless if the officials don't know or understand the rules of the game! I know what it's like to favor the "underdog". GCI is no underdog in this so-called regulated environment. Please pass HB 111 With Amendments.

Cordially Yours,
Dedicated Citizen-ACS Employee-Father of 2

Michael Mandregan, Engineer-Network Circuit Design

Do you Yahoo!?
The New Yahoo! Search - Faster. Easier. Bingo.

Subject: HB 111
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 11:46:53 -0800
From: "Snisarenko, Shawn" <ssnisarenko@ascg.com>
To: <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us>

Ms. McGuire:

My name is Shawn Snisarenko and my address is 8441 Moorland St, Anchorage, AK 99502. First I would like to say that I am in no way affiliated with ACS, nor do I know anyone who works there. I am in favor of HB111 with the amendments pertaining to fair compensation for leasing the equipment of the primary carrier. I believe in competition in the market place; however, it needs to occur on a level playing field. It is not fair that ACS must compete with one hand tied with one hand tied behind their back. In fact, I continue to use ACS for my local and long distance phone service as a protest against this situation even though it costs more. GCI has some nerve to complain about this bill. They continue to hold a monopoly on cable TV and have no problem raking Anchorage consumers over the coals with the highest cable rates in the country.

Thank you for your attention on this matter.

Shawn P. Snisarenko

Subject: **Requesting your support of HB111 with amendments**
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 11:54:06 -0800
From: "Neff, La'Net" <LNeff@acsalaska.com>
To: Anderson T <Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.state.ak.us>,
Gruenberg Max <Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.state.ak.us>,
Holm Jim <Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us>,
Les Gara <Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us>,
McGuire L <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us>,
Ogg D <Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us>,
Samuels Ralph <Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.state.ak.us>

Since the initial ACS-GCI 'interim' interconnection agreement was signed, ACS has had regulations so stringent that we are not allowed compete in the local telephone service market. We continue to be considered the "incumbent LEC" for local telephone service, although we clearly have lost close to 50% of our market share in the Anchorage market-if not more! This did not happen yesterday, last week or even last month. We have been begging for relief for YEARS.

It is more than time to even the playing field and require GCI to compensate ACS for the costs of the services we provide to their customers. It is also time for ACS to be able to provide the same level of service to our customers as GCI does to theirs (Bundling services together, ease of business for our customer base, etc).

Our goal is to be able to proudly promote competition in the state of Alaska, we understand that this benefits the communities we serve, we simply want to be given the ability to be competitive.

We urge you to look at the FACTS about this issue and weigh them carefully. ACS and it's employees as well as our customers need your vote:

Please support HB111 WITH AMENDMENTS.

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Subject: HB 111
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 11:56:34 -0800
From: "John F. Jansen" <santaman@alaska.net>
To: Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us

I urge you to support HB 111 with current amendments. I do not believe that ACS should be
forced to lease its facilities to GCI at a fraction of the costs.
RCA's practices are skewed against ACS.

--

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

John F. Jansen Phone: 907/746-2963
P.O. Box 3609 Fax: 907/746-2964
8508 Highlander Circle email: santaman@alaska.net
Palmer AK 99645-3609

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Subject: Fair competition?
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 12:03:16 -0800
From: "Moninski, Olga" <omoninsk@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat
"'Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.sta
"'Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.s
"'Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us>

Dear Representatives.

I have worked in the Telecommunications industry for twenty two years: sixteen of them in Russia and six in the U.S.A. (including more than three years for ACS.) I can tell you that competition is great: it keeps the prices down and pushes telecommunications companies to develop different features to attract customers.

However, it's difficult to call the situation we have now "competition" when one company gets special treatment. If ACS one day goes out of business, what will the State of Alaska have to say? That they didn't mean for it to happen?

Please support HB 111 and all its critical amendments. Please don't favor one child over another one.

Best regards,

Olga "Olya" Moninski
ACS Engineering
(907) 564-1185 office ph.
(907) 242-9019 cell ph.
omoninsk@acsalaska.com
fax (907) 564-3447

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Subject: I support HB111 with amendments
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 13:06:33 -0700 (PDT)
From: jason werner <ja_wer@yahoo.com>
To: Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us, Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us, Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us, Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.state.ak.us, Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us

To all Representatives,

My name is Jason Werner, I have lived in alaska and
been a resident for over 20 yrs. I support Alaska and
fair competition in our economy.

I Support HB111 with amendments

Jason Werner
17622 N Juanita Loop
Eagle River, AK
622 1003\Cell 830 4004

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ALASKA STATE HOMEBUILDERS ASSOCIATION

Alaska State Home Building Association
8301 Schoon, Ste 200
Anchorage, Alaska 99518

RESOLUTION 03-2 "A Resolution of Support of Alaska HB 111 with No Amendments"

WHEREAS, The Alaska State Home Building Association supports the basic concept that telecommunications is one of the most important infrastructures components we have in Alaska, and;

WHEREAS, The Alaska State Home Building Association supports the Regulatory Commission of Alaska, which has always protected consumers and deftly implemented complex regulatory principals that directly benefit our communities, and;

WHEREAS, The Alaska State Home Building Association are concerned about proposed special interest legislation that will increase consumer and business local phone rates. Although the special interests are pushing this legislation are calling it pro-competitive, the proposed legislation is both anti-competitive and anti-consumer and;

WHEREAS, the proposed legislation has been added to HB 111 to extend the life of the Regulatory Commission of Alaska. Please protect ratepayers throughout Alaska by extending the life of the Regulatory Commission with no special interest amendments, and;

NOW, THERFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Home Building Association's Board of Directors supports HB 111 with no amendments;

Adopted, this the 15th day of May, 2003.

Signed:_____
President

Attest: _____
Secretary or Treasurer

Subject: HB111
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 13:58:56 -0800
From: "Simmons, Celestina" <csimmons@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat
"'Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.sta
"'Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.sta
"'Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.s

> *My name is Celestina Simmons, and I am taking this opportunity to write*
> *you regarding HB111. As it stand this will be the demise of the company*
> *I work for. My family has lived in Alaska for almost thirty years, and I*
> *have worked for my present employer for twenty five of those years.*
>
> *I am one of the employees that took a leading roll years ago when ATU came*
> *up for sale the first time. I made commercials for one of the then*
> *interested companies, Citizen Utilities. My commercials at that time*
> *addressed competition for Anchorage.*
>
> *True competition is not what is happening here. My company has to ask for*
> *permission of the RCA to combine any service we wish to offer our*
> *customers when our competitors do not have to go before the RCA for the*
> *same request. Leasing of our lines is also done on a very uneven scale.*
> *Example: you are leasing office space at the rate of thirty dollars a*
> *month and the Federal government decides that you have to turn around and*
> *lease your space to someone else for nineteen dollars a month. All the*
> *maintenance of the office is done by you and that cost cannot be passed on*
> *to your client. How do you keep up? A level competitive playing field?*
>
>
> *This is but a small example of what we have had to live with, and it has*
> *come to a point that things have to change. Competition is good for*
> *everyone, and it keeps us all on our toes. But like any boxer in a ring we*
> *can not put up a good fight with our hands chained behind are backs. With*
> *fair and open competition, if we still can't make it, then shame on us. We*
> *deserve that chance.*
>
> *Please put the amendments back on HB111. All we our asking for is fair*
> *competition.*
>
>
>
>
> *Celes Simmons*
7401 Hillside Way
Anchorage Alaska 99516
>
>
>

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Subject: House Bill 111 With Amendments
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 14:12:24 -0800
From: "Crone, Elaine L." <ECrone@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.sta
"'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat
"'Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.sta
"'Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.s

Please pass this bill With Amendments. It will not raise ACS telephone rates and it will provide a more level playing field for GCI and ACS, which the RCA has not been willing to do so far. In a more competitive environment both companies could afford to invest in newer technologies and upgrade their current equipment for the benefit of all Alaskan customers. It is unfair to force one company to subsidize another through below cost wholesale rates, longer depreciation schedules, as well as require tariff restrictions that don't allow ACS to bundle their customer offerings for all services in one call center, as well as other restrictions that only apply to ACS, not GCI.

I have lived and worked in Alaska for over 20 years and seen many changes in the telecommunications industry. I've never seen such an unfair regulatory commission before.

Thank you for your consideration.
Elaine Crone
Sitka

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Subject: HB111
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 14:16:10 -0800
From: "Hamsley, Larry E." <lhamsley@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

I have been employed by local telephone service providers for 34 years in Fairbanks. For the past few years I have seen a dramatic change in the approach to providing quality telephone service. As a present employee of ACS, we as acompany are not able to make decisions based on the desire to provide expected quality service to the local subscribers. This is due to the unfairness of current regulation. I provide network engineering for Fairbanks, Delta, Eielson AFB, Ft. Wainwright, Nenana, and the Kenai Peninsula. My duties include upgrades to the existing network and expansion to allow for growth. For the last few years I have not had a network project approved. This is not due to a lack of ACS's desire to continue building and expanding a state of the art network. It is due to the fact that a competitor can sit like a vulture watching a dying animal and unfairly take advantage of any facilities on a pick and choose basis without risking anything. How can any law be justified that allows this? Under the current regulation GCI can build transport facilities to serve the cream of the crop customers and not be forced to share the cost of serving all customers. I'll stop at this point because I know you are extremely busy but please pass HB111 with amendments and level the playing field for competition.

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Subject: Fair Competition
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 14:25:18 -0800
From: "Handy, Steve" <Steve.Handy@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat
"'Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.sta
"'Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.sta
"'Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.s

Dear Distinguished Representatives;

After moving to Alaska I never once missed illogical politics. The general population, my friends, neighbors, seemingly everyone operates with what seems to be overlaying sense of what is right, fair and logical. I presume you may be nodding your head as you read this, concurring with this sentiment. GCI has not presented itself as a company operating in this manner. If you are truly knowledgeable as to what is happening here in the trenches where we work, where we actually install and maintain most the machines GCI uses to transport their traffic and then see and hear them announce publicly that ACS is deceitful, you would know from where the real deceit comes. Please do what is fundamentally right - Please vote to support HB 111 and all its critical amendments.

I have worked in the Telecommunications industry for many years and I find myself in a situation where my company is not allowed to compete.... my job security, retirement, and future are at stake. Please support HB 111 and all its critical amendments.

ACS should be allowed to compete by the same rules as GCI. For example, ACS should be allowed to bundle together regulated and unregulated services such as local, long distance, Internet and Wireless (the cable monopoly- GCI- has been able to do this for over seven years). I encourage you to support HB 111 and all its critical amendments.

What we have witnessed through full-page ads, radio spots, Internet sites, and political maneuvering is an attempt to maintain a structure, which requires ACS to subsidize its chief competitor, GCI, the cable monopolist. This subsidy takes root in lease rates that are a mere fraction of the true cost ACS has incurred. I encourage you to support HB 111 and all its critical amendments.

When House Bill 111 as amended passes, Alaskan telecommunications consumers will have real competition for the first time. Competition which allows all service providers to offer their "best" deals because all the competing companies will be operating under the same set of rules on a level playing field.

As a voter in your district, I encourage you to represent my family and myself when you cast your vote on this important legislation. Please support HB 111 and all its critical amendments.

Forcing ACS to subsidize its competitors is not competition. Please vote to support HB 111 and all its critical amendments.

Sincerely,
Steve Handy
ACS Wireless / Southeast
Phone - (907) 321-8266
2092 Jordan Avenue, Suite 550
Juneau, AK 99801

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Subject: re: HB111 with amendments
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 14:27:25 -0800
From: "Misuck, Regan E." <bmisuck@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

Hello, I am a customer and an employee of Alaska Communications Systems, my family works at ACS as well. As a Customer Service Representative, I speak with customers on a daily basis. The majority of their complaints center around the regulations imposed on ACS by the RCA. One of the most frequently asked questions I hear is, "How come I can call GCI and get all the information I need at one time but when I call ACS I get transferred to three different departments to get the information I need? Don't you people know what you are doing?" I urge you to support HB111 with all the amendments so that we can give our customers the best customer service available. Thank you, Regan

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May 15, 2003

Dear Representatives,

My name is Brenda Harris and I am writing to ask for your support for HB-111. I am a single mother and I too work for ACS. I have worked in the telephone industry for the last 13 years. In the last 4 years I have watched the company that I work for struggle to survive. It is very maddening to me not to be able to voice my opinion because I work for the "supposedly" leading Telephone Company.

I have watched GCI slam us into the ground on every issue. I have watched the Anchorage Daily News print biased material. I have read letters to the editor from angry customers who cannot get telephone service and it's always the fault of ACS. We are responsible for everything that goes wrong in the State of Alaska when it comes to Telecommunication problems.

This infuriates me as an employee, and as a citizen. There is nothing fair about the current requirements of ACS. Why should ACS have to lay equipment and turn around and lease it for a lower rate than it cost our company? Especially when GCI owns a majority of the market. Right now we spend half of our time taking care of GCI customers and our own are neglected. This does nothing for ACS as a company. This is an all around loosing battle for ACS and is not fair. It does nothing for the public and does nothing for our company.

GCI is the monopoly not only in the telephone industry but also in the cable business.

Subject: HBIII WITH AMENDMENTS
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 14:38:58 -0800
From: "Leah Merritt" <leah@ctcak.net>
To: <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us>

I support HB III with amendments!

Leah Merritt
Cordova, AK 99574

Subject: HB111
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 15:00:38 -0800
From: "McCullough, Shawn" <smccullo@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

Dear Ms.McGuire
> *I am writing to ask that you fight for the AMENDMENTS to*
> *HB111. These amendments insure that fair competition will finally begin in*
> *the telecommunication's industry here in Alaska. I fear that if these*
> *amendments do not get voted in that the company I work for ACS will not be*
> *in business in the near future. I believe that there will be layoffs and*
> *many good paying jobs will be lost. This is not what Alaska needs. We need*
> *more jobs with good pay and benefits. I feel that the RCA has been coerced*
> *into a one sided effort in the telecommunication's industry. The main*
> *competitor GCI has been given a free ride for seven years. While Acs is*
> *subsidizing their only competitor. Is this Really the competition that*
the
> *fed.'s wanted ? I think that now that GCI has a very big percentage of the*
> *market that they should have to pay for it. Why let GCI get their way*
again
> *with the RCA. They are the only ones to gain in this effort to pass the*
RCA
> *with out the amendments. The public will only feel the loss of maintenance*
> *on the lines that serve both Gci and ACS customers. So far to date there*
has
> *been no benefit to the customer in this so called Competitive market. The*
> *same lines that served them before are still in use but getting older and*
> *older. Who will pay to replace them in the future GCI?*
> *I Highly doubt this. GCI needs to step up to the plate and earn their*
market
> *share.*
> *Please support this issue.*
> *Shawn McCullough*

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Subject: HB 111
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 15:17:16 -0800
From: chstiver@alaska.net
To: Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us

Hello,
I'm concerned about HB 111 not just as an employee of ACS, but also as a consumer. I want it pass w/ amendments.
I can't get dsl where I live at in Anchorage & am stuck w/ dialup unless I want to pay GCI for cable tv to get a decent price for cable Internet which can't be used for much downloading due to the low monthly bandwidth allotment. ACS will never be able to upgrade any of the lines in my area, & also lots of other areas of Anchorage, when they spend all that money just to have lease the lines out to GCI at a much lower rate. If a company can't make a profit on investments, they aren't going to make those investments. That's not real fair for me as a consumer. There's lot lots of customers stuck on slow dialup connections due to old phone lines or service too far away to get faster dsl over phone lines & we're never going to get it unless some company invests in the phone lines. GCI would never invest lots of money in phone lines just to let someone else lease those same lines for so much less than they invested money in.
Please take this into account when you consider this bill.
thank you,
robert stiver

Subject: Please support amendments in HB111.
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 15:55:58 -0800
From: "Dan Crowson" <trapperdan@hotmail.com>
To: Representative_Lesil_Mcguire@legis.state.ak.us
CC: Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.state.ak.us

Dear Chairmens;
I'm a ACS telephone installer/repairman. I have worked for ATU, now ACS, 11 years. I now need your help! HB 111, without it's amendments, will bankrupt my company, ACS.
We need these 3 amendments;
1) Deprecation - GCI is allowed to deprecate their equipment in 12 years, ACS is required to wait 30 years! Not fair or level playing field.
2) Bundling - Currently, GCI can use 1 customer service agent for all its services, we at ACS are required to transfer our customers to 5 different service reps.
3) Universal Fund - GCI gets $10.00 for every line, to build new infrastructure. No new telephone cable has been buried anywhere in Anchorage.
In conclusion, GCI made millions last year, on Anchorage customers. ACS lost millions. Please support amendments in HB 111.
Thank you for your time, Dan Crowson

Dan Crowson Pobox 870066 Wasilla, AK 99687 373-7674
Phy; 1460 E Patty Dr. Cell 240-6653

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Subject: HB111
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 14:56:25 -0900
From: "Michael Henchman" <farnorth@usa.com>
To: Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us

Dear Representative McGuire:

I am a 25-year Fairbanksan who is very concerned about the recent "telecom wars" between ACS and GCI. As you and your fellow committee members are currently working on the HB111 issue, I am compelled to add my voice to those persons who are supporting the effort to pass this bill *with the amendments* that correct the economic inequities between competitive local exchange carriers (CLEC), primarily GCI, and incumbent carriers like ACS.

For the record, I am not opposed to telecom competition; not in its truest business sense. It is clear to me, however, that CLECs survive by leasing networks that have become advantageous for them to use, in terms of the below-cost access they receive. And this situation is perhaps no worse than right here in Alaska, wherein the RCA has clearly gone beyond the call of duty in consistently setting policy which favors GCI far above what is reasonable to ensure fair competition. I have also been both disturbed and offended by the tone of GCI's campaign to discredit ACS as a "monopoly", when GCI clearly is doing so because it is attempting to protect its over-weighted advantage.

These are the disparities I find most objectionable, but this is not an exclusive list:

1. The FCC has guidelines that suggest depreciation should be accelerated to approximately 15 years, to spur investment in new telecom technology as it develops, yet ACS has its hands tied with a 30-year depreciation factor. GCI is allowed a much shorter period of 12 years, less than half of ACS.
2. GCI clearly holds a monopoly on cable TV and can charge whatever it wishes. ACS is forbidden to enter the cable TV market itself, or to resell GCI's signal, and has its rates set by the RCA. And GCI can subsidize their phone rates with profits from their cable TV monopoly, while ACS, as a regulated carrier, cannot subsidize its phones rates with any deregulated activity.
3. ACS receives a federal subsidy per rural line to offset the cost of installing and maintaining service in remote areas. When GCI leases one of those ACS lines to serve its customer, the RCA has mandated that GCI can receive that subsidy - even though ACS is required to continue maintenance on that line, an even deeper subsidization of GCI than already guaranteed by its apparent protector, the RCA. It's like being forced to let my neighbor drive and wear out my car, for a pittance, while I am required to pay for gas and repairs. This is patently unfair.

Ultimately, the inability of incumbent carriers to equitably recoup costs associated with leasing their lines and equipment, along with the requirement that they must open any new facilities which they build to such unbalanced competition, means that investment and development is stymied. It is already happening with large carriers in the Lower 48, who are at less of a clear disadvantage than is ACS at the hands of the RCA. When this happens, consumers lose.

I strongly urge you to allow TRUE and FAIR competition to flourish. This means that HB111 should pass with its amendments, so that the competitive telecom arena is rebalanced. If allowed to continue unabated, the current RCA policy will have a deleterious effect on local service in larger communities, and it will most certainly have a disastrous effect on remote communities, for whom it will eventually become too expensive to serve when the CLECs do not have to pay to incumbent carriers the true costs associated with those customers.

Sincerely,

Michael Henchman
Fairbanks

455-6434
farnorth@usa.com

--

Sign-up for your own FREE Personalized E-mail at Mail.com
http://www.mail.com/?sr=signup

Subject: HB111
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 16:24:18 -0800
From: jon.bowne@acsalaska.net
To: Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us

Representative McGuire,

Please do not fall for the disingenuous rhetoric that GCI is publishing and broadcasting statewide. The RCA consistently has given GCI unfair advantage over ACS. I believe in competition, but on a level playing field.

--ACS is mandated to build out, operate and maintain the telephone network infrastructure from which GCI is allowed to lease lines at below ACS cost.

--After leasing dial tone from ACS, GCI can charge whatever they wish for that service. ACS must sell their own service at the established regulated rate.

--GCI can subsidize their phone service with monies from their cable telephone monopoly, or from any other source. ACS cannot subsidize regulated telephone service from any other source, period! GCI can; ACS cannot.

--GCI can bundle services (i.e. cable TV, Wireless, Internet) to make an attractive marketing package. ACS cannot add a deregulated service to any marketing bundle. GCI can; ACS cannot.

--ACS receives a federal subsidy per rural line to offset the cost of installing and maintaining service in remote areas. When GCI takes an ACS customer, the RCA has mandated that GCI can receive that subsidy - even though ACS is required to continue maintaining those lines.

--The communications industry is changing rapidly; equipment bought today can be obsolete in five years or less (FCC guidelines are ten years; current reality is five). RCA mandates that ACS must depreciate its equipment on a thirty-year schedule. It says that GCI can depreciate its equipment on a twelve-year schedule.

--ACS is forced to lease its plant to GCI at below cost. Neither ACS nor anyone else is allowed to lease any part of the GCI cable television network.

--There is no point at which GCI stops receiving special treatment. They have over fifty percent of the local Anchorage market right now. They can go to 100% and all their special privileges stay in place.

Can a reasonable person honestly say that these rules and restrictions are fair? They are a disincentive to growth and expansion and, while bad for the industry in general; they have a disproportionately adverse effect on the most remote customers. I hope you recognize the damage that the RCA has done to the telecommunications business in Alaska. Pass HB111 with the amendments in place and allow all parties fair, market driven competition.

Thank you for your kind attention.

Jon Bowne
460-1532 (work)
451-7469 (home)

Subject: HB 1111
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 20:39:33 -0400
From: Uptilnow@aol.com
To: Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us, Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.state.ak.us, Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us, Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us, Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.state.ak.us, Rpresentative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us, Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.state.ak.us

May 15, 2003

Dear Honorable Representatives,

My name is Stacie Byrns. I am a single mother and I work for Alaska Communications Systems. I am writing to you in hopes that you will support HB 111 WITH all amendments attached.

The reason that I am asking you to support this bill is not only because I work for Alaska Communications Systems (ACS), but also because without fair competition in the Telecommunications Area the customer (YOU and I) become caught in the middle. When there is a fair and equal competition field then WE come out on top.

I have always prided myself on being fair and just to everyone no matter what the situation as such when I see a full-page ad or hear a radio spot that is filled with untruths then I get upset. This political maneuvering is nothing more then an attempt to maintain a structure, which requires ACS to subsidize its chief competitor, GCI. This subsidy takes root in lease rates that are a mere fraction of the true cost ACS has incurred.

Why would ACS raise it Local and/or Business Customer Rates by $100 million annually? Donâ€™t you think that this is a little opperserd? That would only encourage our customers to turn to GCI for service. ACS would raise its interconnect fees so that GCI was paying a compensatory rate for the use of the ACS Network. This to me would be a fair playing field.

When House Bill 111 as amended passes, then Alaskan telecommunications consumers will have real competition for the first time. Competition which allows all service providers to offer their â€œBESTâ€ deals because all the competing companies will be operating under the same set of rules on a level playing field.

Thank you for voting FOR HB 111 WITH all amendments.

Sincerely,
Stacie Byrns

Subject: HB 111 WITH AMENDMENTS
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 16:48:50 -0800
From: "Clark, Susan" <sclark@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat
"'Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.sta
"'Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.sta
"'Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.st
CC: "Larsen, Robert" <rlarsen@acsalaska.com>

Dear Representatives McGuire, Anderson, Ogg, Holm, Samuels, Gara and Gruenberg;

Thank you for your dedication in serving the citizens of Alaska. I write today to enlist your support for passing HB 111 WITH the Amendments. I am an employee at ACS. I work as a Customer Service Representative. I have worked here for 9 and 1/2 years. Customer Service is what I have done in one form or another for the past 38 years.

When I was younger, I thought about being a Doctor, a Nurse, a Teacher or a Lawyer. I got OJT training in all those fields as a parent and by working as a Bartender, a Cab Driver, a Cab Dispatcher and finally a Customer Service Representative in the Telecommunications industry in Anchorage Alaska. When I went to work for the phone company I received extensive (three months) training in the unique language of Telephony. However, the best preparation I had for providing Customer Service came from the years I spent tending Bar, driving a Cab, and dispatching Cabs (I really enjoyed telling the other drivers where to go). What I learned from all my years of working in those SERVICE industries was that my customers would only be my customers if I was able to provide the best customer service. My market could get those services from any place. They could order a bottle of beer or a Perrier from any bar. They could catch a ride in any flavor of Cab, and they could call any Cab company besides the one I worked for to arrange that ride. So what separated the Bar, or the Cab Company I worked for from all the rest? Customer Service! The playing field was pretty equal, and in NONE of those fields, did my competitors have the advantage of my company having to subsidize them to promote competition. By providing the best customer service, I was able to maintain a strong customer base. That kept my jobs and allowed me to raise three children as a single mom.

We need the RCA to be brought under control. We need to assure the citizens of Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Juneau (and I'm sure other markets in the future) that they will have choices. To me, that means that one company should not be forced to subsidize the cost of another company doing business. The competition needs to be in the arena of customer service. As long as ACS is forced to resell our facilities for less than it costs us to maintain them, with the result that GCI can forego customer service and just be "the cheapest telephone company in town", we do not have a level playing field. There is nothing to put the competition where it belongs which is in the arena of Customer Service.

I can make a great telephone. I can even repair that telephone. But I can't sell that telephone for less than it costs me to make it and still be here when somebody asks for a telephone. Please help level the playing field and pass HB 111 with the amendments that will do that. It's time GCI started competing on my level. They should have to try to provide real service, like I do. They should have to take care of customers, like I do. They should have to pay for the cost of doing business, like I do.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sue Clark.

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Subject: HB111 W/Amendments
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 18:18:43 -0800
From: "Perry & Jeannie Carter" <akstuf@acsalaska.net>
To: <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us>

Thank you for continuing to support HB111 W/Amendments.

Perry Carter
Anchorage, Ak

5-15-03

(Kevin Meyers

Please support HB 111 with amendments to ensure an open & fair competition to Alaskans -

FORREST CHARLTON

Box 112929

Anch AK 99511

5-15-03

Kevin Meyers

Please support HB 111 with amendments to ensure an open & fair competition to Alaskans -

Regina Charlton

Box 112929

Anch AK 99511

5-15-03

KEVIN MEYERS

Please support HB 111 with amendments to ensure an open & fair competition to Alaskans -

CAM CHARLTON

Box 112929
Anch AK 99511

5-15-03

House Judiciary Com.
Mc Guire

Please support HB 111 with amendments to ensure an open & fair competition to Alaskans -

FORREST CHARLTON

Box 112929
Anch AK 99511

Deanna C. Borgen
P.O. Box 244555
Anchorage, AK 99524

TO: ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
ATTN: House 24 Cheryll Heinze.

SUBJECT HB 111

Hi my name is Deanna Borgen I have worked in the Telecommunications industry for many years. I feel my job security, retirement and my family's well being and futures are at risk. If the amendments for HB111 are not kept in place I may lose my job.

When House Bill 111 as amended passes all Alaskan telecommunications consumers will have competition for the first time, and competing companies will have the same set of rules on a level playing field.

Please as a voter, I encourage you to represent my family and myself when you cast your VOTE on this important Legislation. Please Support HB 111 and all its critical Amendments.

Thank you
Deanna C. Borgen

May 13, 2003

Dear Bob Lynn,

I understand HB 111 is in danger of being stripped of all of its amendments I am writing to ask that you work to pass HB 111 with all of its amendments intact. This is crucial because if HB 111 passes without these amendments my job security + retirement are in jeopardy.

Respectfully,

Laurie Mack

6860 O'Malley

Anchorage, AK 99507

May 13, 2003

Dear Kevin Meyer,

I understand that HB 111 is in danger of being stripped of all its amendments. I am writing to ask that you work to pass HB 111 with all of its amendments intact. This is crucial because if HB 111 passes with out these amendments my job security + retirement are in jeopardy.

Respectfully,

Laurie Mack
6860 O'Malley
Anchorage, AK 99507

TO: Chair, Representative Lesil McGuire
Members of the House Judiciary Committee

Re: SB93(JUD)am Adverse Possession

From: Jim Colver Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assemblymember,
Professional Land Surveyor
(907) 746-5300 surveyor@pobox.alaska.net

Date: May 16, 2003

I understand that there is concern by Native Corporations about the ability to protect their land from adverse possession claims. The Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act already gives that protection.

Pursuant to 43 U.S.C.A 636(d) (1), attached, land conveyed by the federal government pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, or to an individual Native or a Native Corporation is exempted from adverse possession claims. If this is a concern, then this bill is unnecessary.

The Borough is concerned that prescriptive rights that may have accrued after 10 years for the physical presence of a utility are being converted to a grant of an easement in this bill. This is unnecessary, under current law utilities already have prescriptive rights.

The major problem with this bill as it applies to the doctrine of adverse possession is that under the bill **private roads and trails with prescriptive rights**, that is 10 years of open and notorious use or more **will be extinguished**. Many private **landowners will loose their right of access** to their cabins and homes. The bill only allows a government to claim adverse possession for roads and trails.

Additionally, as there have been cases where adverse possession claims by legitimate title holders have been necessary due to lost deeds or destroyed records as happened when the Chitina Courthouse burnt down and the records were lost.

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together with interest on such taxes and assessments in an amount to be determined at the highest rate of interest charged with respect to delinquent property taxes by the Federal, State or local taxing authority, if any.

(8) The agreement may contain such additional terms, which are consistent with the provisions of this section, as seem desirable to the parties entering into the agreement: *Provided*, That the refusal of the landowner to agree to any additional terms shall not be grounds for the refusal of the Secretary or the State to enter into an agreement with the landowner under this section.

(c) BENEFITS TO PRIVATE LANDOWNERS. — (1) In addition to any requirement of applicable law, the appropriate Secretary is authorized to provide technical and other assistance with respect to fire control, trespass control, resource and land use planning, and the protection, maintenance, and enhancement of any special values of the land subject to the agreement, all with or without reimbursement as agreed upon by the parties, so long as the landowner is in compliance with the agreement.

(2) The provision of section 21(e) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act shall apply to all lands which are subject to an agreement made pursuant to this section so long as the parties to the agreement are in compliance therewith.

(d) AUTOMATIC PROTECTIONS FOR LANDS CONVEYED PURSUANT TO THE ALASKA NATIVE CLAIMS SETTLEMENT ACT. — (1)(A) Notwithstanding any other provision of law or doctrine of equity, all land and interests in land in Alaska conveyed by the Federal Government pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act to a Native individual or Native Corporation or subsequently reconveyed by a Native Corporation pursuant to section 39 of that Act to a Settlement Trust shall be exempt, so long as such land and interests are not developed or leased or sold to third parties from —

(i) adverse possession and similar claims based upon estoppel;

(ii) real property taxes by any governmental entity;

(iii) judgments resulting from a claim based upon or arising under —

(I) title 11 of the United States Code or any successor statute,

(II) other insolvency or moratorium laws, or

(III) other laws generally affecting creditors' rights;

(iv) judgments in any action at law or in equity to recover sums owed or penalties incurred by a Native Corporation or Settlement Trust or any employee, officer, director, or shareholder of such corporation or trust, unless this exemption is contractually waived prior to the commencement of such action; and

(v) involuntary distributions or conveyances related to the involuntary dissolution of a Native Corporation or Settlement Trust.

(B) Except as otherwise provided specifically provided, the exemptions described in subparagraph (A) shall apply to any claim or judgment existing on or arising after the date of the enactment of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act Amendments of 1987.

(2) DEFINITIONS. — (A) For purposes of this subsection, the term —

(i) "Developed" means a purposeful modification of land, or an interest in land, from its original state that effectuates a condition of gainful and productive present use without further substantial modification. Surveying, construction of roads, providing utilities, or other similar actions, which are normally considered to be component parts of the development process but do not create the condition described in the preceding sentence, shall not constitute a developed state within the meaning of this clause. In order to terminate the exemptions listed in paragraph (1), land, or an interest in land, must be developed for purposes other than exploration, and the exemptions will be terminated only with respect to the smallest practicable tract actually used in the developed state;

(ii) "Exploration" means the examination and investigation of undeveloped land to determine the existence of subsurface nonrenewable resources; and

(iii) "Leased" means subjected to a grant of primary possession entered into for a gainful purpose with a determinable fee remaining in the hands of the grantor. With

RE: SB 93 (JUD)am

TO: State House Juciary Chair. Representative Lesil McGuire
Members of the House Judiciary Committee

Re: **SB93 Adverse Possession**
Amendments

From: Jim Colver Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assemblymember
Professional Land Surveyor
(907) 746-5300 surveyor@pobox.alaska.net

To limit the effect of the amendment of 9.10.030 to native corporation land, you simply need to add that language of limitation to the proposed section (b) of 9.10.030, as follows:

*** Section 2**

(b) an action may be brought at any time by a person or a corporation organized under 43 U.S.C. _____ as amended (Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act) whose ownership interest in real property is recorded under AS 40.17 in order to:

(1) quiet title to that real property: or
(2) eject a person from that real property.

Also, to give private parties the right to establish prescriptive easements for access to adjacent land, you need to add a new section (e) to 9.45.052, as follows:

***Section 4** add:

(e) Notwithstanding AS 09.10.030, the uninterrupted adverse notorious use of private land, including the construction, management, operation, and maintenance of roads and trails, for the purpose of gaining access to adjacent real property owned by the adverse claimant for a period of 10 years or more, vests in the adverse claimant an easement in the private land for that purpose.

My name is Teresa Williams, and I'm the Borough Attorney for the Matanuska-Susitna Borough.

I have a question regarding Section 3 of the amended SB 93. In Paragraph (c) of that section, the language appears create an exception to the general language of Section 29.71.010 of the Alaska Statutes, that is, that a municipality may not be divested of title to real property by adverse possession.

While this language preserves title to, say, for example, borough property, the new Paragraph (c) of Senate Bill 93, as written, is vulnerable to the interpretation that, while it doesn't divest the borough of title, it DOES arguably act to divest the borough of one of the bundle of rights of title, that is, an easement for the public utility. Is this the intended result of the new provision?

If divestiture of the easement right was intended, the borough, among other municipalities, would surely object to the addition of Paragraph (c) of Section 3 of the amended bill. If such was NOT the intent of the drafter, I recommend that qualifying language be added to Paragraph (c), such as, for example, "except as against any municipality, the state or the United States". This language would preserve ALL rights of title of municipalities as against adverse possession.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today.

my suggested amendment

May 15, 2003

Very Important!

Judiciary Committee:
Lesil McGuire
Tom Anderson
Dan Ogg
Jim Holm
Ralph Samuels
Les Grara
Max Gruenberg (also my State Representative-go MaxIII)

RE: HB111 & critical amendments

I am a ten year employee of ATU/ACS and I am writing to urge each of you to vote for HB111 with all its' critical amendments in order to promote fair and equitable competition in the telecommunications industry in Alaska. One of the goals of the federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 was to encourage competition of local telephone service providers. However, the Regulatory Commission of Alaska has allowed unfair competition, in that, it gives an unfair advantage to GCI by not requiring them to help pay for costs of building new facilities to service Alaska's growing demand for additional telecommunication facilities. The way it stands now the RCA has given GCI support in it's rulings to "lease" facilities from ACS at a fraction of the costs to maintain and operate the network currently in existence, not to mention the costs of constructing new facilities. There is no reason for ACS to build additional facilities knowing that the competition would be allowed to lease these new facilities at below costs rates & by not requiring GCI to bear some of the costs in constructing these same projects.

Competition between ACS & GCI needs to be done by the same rules. Competition is a good, healthy way for any business to increase and/or maintain a client base. However, the current situation only supports unfair competition as ACS should be allowed to bundle together regulated & deregulated services just as GCI (the cable monopoly company) does at this time and has for over seven years. The subsidy that ACS is made to furnish GCI is unfair and takes root in lease rates that are a mere fraction of the true costs ACS has incurred. I urge you all to support HB111 and all its' critical amendments. HB111 and all its' critical amendments will allow market forces, rather than government regulators to set prices for services in competitive markets. It does NOT raise local telephone rates, but will assist to establish rules and policies that are equitable for all competitors, and achieve lease rates that are close to the truce cost of building, operating and maintaining the facilities.

It is time for governmental officials in Alaska to recognize that there are substantial benefits of open competition and which provides more consumer choices. It is absolutely necessary to move forward to a deregulatory framework, one that allows market forces to replace regulation and to quit subsidizing one competitor over another. When profitable customers are cherry picked by competitors and companies like ACS are left to serve the highest cost customers, universal service is put at risk. The RCA has also given the other guys (GCI) federal support dollars for service high-cost customers without them ever building, operating or maintaining one single high cost line in Alaska. These continued practices undermine the Telecommunications Act of promoting and advancing universal service.

As a voter, I encourage each & every one of you to represent my family and myself when you cast your vote on this important legislation. Please show your support today for the hearing on HB 111 and all its critical amendments.

Beverly A. Lemoine

When Arliss Sturgulewski on a GCI ad., saying about special interest groups. Who are the special interests group here Arliss? Arliss is saying something that most people don't know what she is saying here. GCI don't have to phone cable lines and they are paying less than other for the use of that cable.

ACS has to share its products and services with competing companies like GCI, and this will encourage companies like ACS to spend on capital projects to improve advanced deployment of advanced telecommunications equipment to service Alaskans. This actually discourages companies like ACS to invest on NEW advanced telecommunications equipment to service Alaskans because ACS would have to share this NEW technology with competing companies like GCI, AT&T and TelAlaska and ACS would not a good return on their investment. Companies like GCI, do not have to invest on any capital projects and advanced telecommunications equipment to service Alaskans because they can get it from ACS for below cost. So why should ACS invest on anything. Your in business to make money, not share investments. Who ends up suffering? We Alaskans, the public.

This is what i sent them.
Gilbert Carrillo
8301 Majestic Dr.
Anchorage Ak 99504
907-333-0101

p.1
MAR 13 03 11:44a

I support HB 111 and all its amendments! Give us a chance... make it fair and we will make it better for Alaska. How about letting ACS develop a cable television customer base and lease GCI equipment for pennies, which would enable us to provide ACS cable television service to OUR customers at a much lower cost of service than GCI could provide? Do you think GCI could stay in the cable business if they had to foot the bill to maintain all the equipment necessary to provide service to their customers AND ours? This is exactly the scenario in regard to the telecom side of our relationship with GCI. They lease our equipment for pennies, which enables them charge their customers less which, of course, brings them more customers for less money!

Pam Estep
ACS Payroll
907.564.1552

Molly Aichner
8221 Sue St.
Anchorage, AK 99502

May 15, 2003

Rep. Lesil McGuire

Dear Rep. Lesil McGuire,
Subject: HB 111

I am writing today to support HB 111 with all amendments. I have worked in the telecommunications industry for 6 years, in which the changes have been extreme. I am all for fair and equal competition, but currently this is not happening. Fair competition does not mean disabling the incumbent local exchange carrier. Level the playing field so ACS can really compete in this industry mean fair wholesale rates, unbundling and less restrictive tariffs.

The bottom line is Alaskan jobs are at jeopardy, if these debilitating regulations continue many families from Fairbanks to Juneau will feel the downsizing of this company.

Sincerely,

Molly Aichner
One of the many Alaska Communication Systems employees

Representative Lesil McGuire,

I would like to voice my dismay at HB111 not being approved with **ALL AMENDMENTS** attached. I am a lifelong Alaskan and ACS employee, and am very concerned about the current situation with the RCA. Deregulation has defenatly not worked thus far. Look at the California energy crisis for an example of what is going to happen here. If GCI is allowed to lease ACS's facilities for less than it costs ACS to build and maintain them, it will not be long before ACS is bankrupt. GCI can afford to sell phone service cheap because they get $10 federal money per line for maintenance which ACS must maintain for them. In addition ACS is required to lease their lines to GCI for $19, which is over $12 less than it costs ACS to build and maintain. And on top of that they just keep raising their cable TV rates which they have the Monopoly on. For example my fathers neighbor built a new house and wanted GCI service, they told him he first that he needed to sign up with ACS to have the copper line buried and then he could switch over to GCI for free. Where is the incentive for ACS to build anything? It has already been four years of this with the RCA and I don't think that ACS can last another four. The RCA is definitely on GCI's side. Remember the little ordeal with GCI flying the RCA higher-ups to it exclusive fishing lodge last year? When the only utility in Alaska that wants the RCA bill passed without amendments is GCI, there must be something going on. I love living in Alaska and would hate to lose my job and have to move my family outside. Lets make competition in Alaska fair and impartial, only then will both companies invest in our infrastructure.

Curtis Dunham
2906 Doris St.
Anchorage, Alaska
99517
(907) 274-2878

TESTIMONY OF KRISTI CATLIN
HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
HOUSE BILL 111
MAY 15, 2003

Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee. For the record, my name is Kristi Catlin, Director of Government Affairs for AT&T Alascom, with its main business address at 210 E. Bluff Drive, Anchorage, Alaska 99501. Thank you for the opportunity to testify at this hearing.

Throughout this session, AT&T Alascom has consistently supported its Dominance amendment language, while reserving its opinion about the other proposed amendments until our internal analysis could be completed on those amendments. As you know, this amendment process has taken on a life of its own, and what started out to be a reasonable request for market definitions has now turned into a far-reaching amendment, parts of which cannot be supported by AT&T Alascom.

With that in mind, and after a great deal of thought and consideration, as a result of some of the changes that have been added to the amendment, AT&T Alascom intends to separate its pursuit of a definition of Dominance from the legislation re-authorizing the RCA. We continue to believe, however, that regulatory relief from Dominance is essential and must be dealt with as soon as possible. If a market is truly opened to competition, regulation should be decreased rather than increased. Under the current circumstances, we believe that our best course of action is to pursue the opening of a docket at the RCA that will deal exclusively with the issue of interexchange Dominance.

For these reasons, AT&T Alascom will support a clean bill with a 2-year reauthorization, which is the term recommended by legislative audit. The Commission's unwillingness to reduce regulation in competitive markets, however, must change. Until we are able to gauge the new Commission's ability and willingness to work toward reduced regulation in competitive markets, AT&T believes that a 3-4 year extension of the RCA is too long.

Thank you once again for this opportunity to present our testimony. I will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

FROM : RAY GILLESPIE & ASSOCIATES PHONE NO. : 907 463 5522 May. 15 2003 01:20PM P2

Subject: Pass HB 111 & all its critical amendments
Date: Fri, 16 May 2003 19:44:57 -0800
From: "Bruce VanVleck" <bvanvleck@acsalaska.net>
To: <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us>

HB 111 and all of its' critical amendments needs to be passed. This is a bill that will allow real competition in the telecommunications industry in Alaska.

I see your vote on this bill as a measure of your intelligence and integrity. If you currently understand the RCA and the decisions it has made since 1999, you can see this bill is necessary to the health of telecommunications in Alaska and you'll pass this bill with the critical amendments. If you understand and vote against HB 111, you have sold your soul.

Do what's right for Alaskans - pass HB 111 and all its critical amendments.

Regards,
Nancy VanVleck

Subject: RCA
Date: Fri, 16 May 2003 23:09:04 -0800
From: Nanette Rose <nanrose@gci.net>
To: Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us

PLEASE do the right thing and remove the amendments from 111 and reinstate the RCA for 4 more years. Let the RCA do what they were created for and ste the guidelines for the Utilities.

Thanks
Nanette Rose

---

winmail.dat	**Name:** winmail.dat **Type:** Netscape File (application/ms-tnef) **Encoding:** base64

Subject: HB111
Date: Fri, 16 May 2003 16:51:42 -0800
From: "Richard Tweet" <rtweet@ptialaska.net>
To: <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us>

Dear Ms. McGuire

I am writing you to request that your committee pass HB111 with amendments that provide for fair competition in the telecommunications industry. What good becomes the bill if in a short period of time, an incumbent LEC is driven out of business leaving what was once the competitor to become king of the block and able to charge at will?

I ask that you not look at this bill as a way to fill ACS's coffers, but in fact to allow the incumbent LEC's to charge a fair cost for lines which they own. These LEC's are more than aware that the quickest way to lose customers is to become greedy with their pricing, so I urge you to level the playing field by passing HB111 with amendments.

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to express my opinions,

Richard Tweet
2442 Forest Park Dr.
Anchorage, AK 99517

Subject: RE: FW: HB111 with Amendments
Date: Fri, 16 May 2003 17:24:18 -0800
From: "Fifield, Donese L." <dfifield@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Senator_Con_Bunde@Legis.state.ak.us'" <Senator_Con_Bunde@Legis.state.ak.us>
CC: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@Legis.sta
"'Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Tom_Anderson@Legis.st
"'Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Dan_Ogg@Legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Jim_Holm@Legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Ralph_Samuels@Legis.st
"'Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Les_Gara@Legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Max_Gruenberg@Legis.s
"'Senator_Ben_Stevens@legis.state.ak.us'" <Senator_Ben_Stevens@Legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Senator_Gene_Therriault@legis.state.ak.us'" <Senator_Gene_Therriault@Legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Senator_Johnny_Ellis@legis.state.ak.us'" <Senator_Johnny_Ellis@Legis.state.ak.us>,
"'office_of_the_governor@gov.state.ak.us'" <office_of_the_governor@gov.state.ak.us>

Mr. CON,

To think someone like you represents THE PEOPLE. Me being ar. employee of ACS and an IBEW member, ACS Management has NEVER frighten us in any way. How dreadful you see an ACS employee speaking there mind on behalf of their jobs! We are PROUD to work at ACS; as a matter of fact our competitors can't function with out us, because we do all their work - even paying for their facilities and telling them how to write an order correctly. You have no idea Mr. CON - you really don't.

We (the employee's- aka THE PEOPLE) have the first hand information as to what is truly fair because we do all our competitors work and we see it on a daily basis.

If you would educate you're self in basic Telephony you would see that what is currently happening is not fair competition! You're statement as to "ACS, has possibly...." says right their you have a pre-set favor over one company. It's not hard to read between your lines. Don't think we ACS employee's are threatening you, If you feel that way then you have apparent deeper issues than just being narrow minded. We are not a special interest group. We are citizens who pay taxes and vote and have the RIGHT to speak our minds to our Government. You may think you represent one small part of this city, but in the long run you should be thinking a little more "out of the box" due to the fact what you are voting on effects this WHOLE community. Shame on you.

Making competition fair should be a no-brainer, that is IF you have all the facts straight. I also hate to inform you're source of information as to ACS's on-going's, sounds a bit fishy to me.

You are not worthy of representing any district. You're reply to my co-worker and union "sister" was so utterly unprofessional. You are NOT being asked to "pick" one side or the other, rather to make a fair playing field for competition, because as it stands now, it is absolute a joke.

The RCA allows parasites to suck the life out of other company's, and call it " competition at work". If I might quote our Governors web page "Our goal is to build a robust, growing economy with good-paying job opportunities, so our young people may choose to stay in Alaska." By voting against HB111 and all its Amendments you are not representing you're Governments goal, not in the long run.

I have attached a link to Illinois Senate Bill SB-885 which was passed into law May 5, 2003 and sets precedence for the LEC not only in Alaska but the

I have attached a link to Illinois Senate Bill SB-885 which was passed into law May 5, 2003 and sets precedence for the LEC not only in Alaska but the remaining states as well. I thought you might want to start reading all you're facts.

Thank you for you're time ~

DONESE FIFIELD
ACS BUSINESS SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE
564 7972
564 1444 FAX

-----Original Message-----
From: Con Bunde [mailto:Senator_Con_Bunde@Legis.state.ak.us]
Sent: Friday, May 16, 2003 3:48 PM
To: Hanley, Abigail
Subject: Re: FW: HB111 with Amendments

Abigail,

I'm sorry that we disagree on this important issue. I will explain my position.

ACS has, possibly, made some bad business decisions. However, the information that I have is that ACS has the resources now to successfully compete in the market.

I also regret that the management at ACS has chosen to frighten their employees in order to lobby legislators for special regulatory allowances. I feel that is an ineffective lobbying strategy as well as being
cruel to you and your fellow employees.

While I do not always agree with the decisions the RCA makes, I must allow them to remain an independent agency that is not pre-set to favor one company over another. My job is to represent all the residents of Senate District P. I will not be threatened by any special interest group.

Con

"Hanley, Abigail" wrote on 5/16/03:

> *-----Original Message-----*
> *From: Larsen, Robert*
> *Sent: Friday, May 16, 2003 1:35 PM*
> *To: WRLS-All Employees; Internet Alaska CSR's; Whitt, Ralph; Notar, Mike; All Represented Employees; Knapp, Johnny; Lewis, Edith; Charlton, Gregory; Cowles, Christine E.; Erickson, Rickey D.; Ferree, John B.; Forbes, Howard G.; Henchman, J. Michael; McNabb, Mary E.; McWilliams, James T.; Olson, Rick G.; Stephenson, Heather; Banisch, Elinor; Bissell, Brenda; Boroz, Kathryn F; Dupree, Randy; Green, Michael J.; Hughes, Mary E.; Hutzel, Andrea; Jacobson, Melinda; King, Christine E.; Langness, Elise; Liegl, Kathy; Olson, Kirsten; O'Malley, Terence; Rondeau, Jane; Simmons, Celestina; Simpson, William (Bill); Watson, Donald; Zellner, Dale; Mccoy, Jessie F.; Johnson, Joni B.*
> *Subject: FW: HB111 with Amendments*
> *Senator Bunde:*

> I'm sorry I thought you represented us, the public, not the governor. I will
> be sure to share your utter disregard for the actual issue with my very
> large (and politically active) family.
>
> Abigail Hanley
> A very proud employee and customer of ACS
>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: Con Bunde [mailto:Senator_Con_Bunde@Legis.state.ak.us]
> Sent: Friday, May 16, 2003 12:58 PM
> To: Ketchum, Judy
> Subject: Re: HB111 with Amendments
>
> Judy,
>
> As the Governor supports an unamended bill and House Finance has passed an
> unamended bill, it is highly unlikely that an amended RCA bill
> will pass the legislature. I support a clean, unamended RCA bill.
>
> -Con
>
> "Ketchum, Judy" wrote:
>
> > Con,
> >
> > I have worked here at Alaska Communications System for almost 17 years. I
> > am really concerned that if we don't manage to make the competitive market
> > more fair that ACS will eventually go down and many many layoffs will
> occur,
> > possibly my job. I have invested a career in this business and am very
> > concerned that is this HB111 with Amendments doesn't pass that what I have
> > invested will be gone. The competition out there is not fair, our
> > competitors can lease facilities cheaper than it costs us to maintain
> these,
> > that makes it difficult to stay in business very long. In order to have
> > fair competition out there we need to have the HB111 with Amendments to be
> > passed as this will allow our competitors to lease at a price that will be
> > fair in order to stay in business.
> >
> > Having a government regulators setting all the rules does not do justice
> to
> > competition, we need the market forces to do this to ensure that all
> > competition is open and fair. Passing this House Bill with Amendments will
> > allow ACS and GCI to complete in a fair business and allow ACS to be able
> to
> > run our business in a very competitive fashion.
> >
> > I urge you to please vote on passing this HB111 with Amendments in hopes
> > that it will even out our competition and we can run a business with
> > competitive prices on products, services. Thank you for your time, I will
> > be following carefully and very attentively to what is happening with this
> > HB as this may be my job or a retirement in the future depending on if it

> > passes or not. I hope I can count on you to pass the HB111 with
> Amendments
> > so we can enjoy a fair competition market here in Anchorage.
> >
> > Judy Ketchum
> >
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> > the addressee. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby
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Illinois General Assembly - Bill Status for SB0885.htm	**Name:** Illinois General Assembly - Bill Status for SB0885.htm **Type:** Hypertext Markup Language (text/html) **Encoding:** quoted-printable **Download Status:** Not downloaded with message

Subject: HB 111
Date: Fri, 16 May 2003 16:28:21 -0800
From: "Hanley, Abigail" <Abigail.Hanley@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

I have written in once before, but this issue is simply so important to me, that I felt I needed to write again. I was born and raised here in Alaska, and have chose to remain a resident of this state. If HB 111 is passed without the amendments that future will be destroyed, and I will very likely be having to move out of state to find a job. I have thought a lot of how I could present our situation to help you understand, and I hope this works.

Imagine please: It's time for reelection and you are running against 'John Doe'. Because you are the incumbent you are required to pay for all of Mr. Doe's expenses in getting set up to run against you.

You have to have all of your ads and speeches approved by a board that often takes months if not years to push anything through. John Doe gets to say and print anything he wants, and it doesn't matter if it is true or not.

Once the polls show that John Doe has 60% of the vote, you still have to support him. Your campaign workers have to post his signs, and pass out his bumper stickers BEFORE they can post their own.

Does this feel fair to you?

I am a firm believer in fair competition and that is all I'm asking for. If HB 111 must be passed than PLEASE pass it WITH all of the amendments.

Thank you,
Abigail Hanley

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Subject:
Date: Fri, 16 May 2003 15:06:19 -0800
From: "Rachelle Alger" <algerrachelle@hotmail.com>
To: representative_lesil_mcguire@legis.state.ak.us

Hi Lesil,

I was pretty upset today when I received news that after your request to have HB111 in the House Judiciary Committee that all of the ACS amendments were tacked right back onto the bill.

You've been an Alaskan long enough to know how hard we have had to fight for choices. It wasn't that long ago when not only didn't we have a choice for telephone service, but also none for shopping, grocery stores, shipping, restaurants and many others. It saddens me to see a fellow long time Alaskan in support of limiting our choices and therefore costing us more money. We pay higher shipping rates than the rest of the Untied States, higher cell phone costs, and higher travel costs to name a few. Do we really need to pay more for phone service as well?

I hope in your hearing today that you are very detailed in EXACTLY why competition isn't good and why Alaskans deserve to pay move for services. With deepest respect for you as a person and our friendship, I must say I view this as a play to further your career politically, which saddens me. These are not thoughts I ever thought I would have regarding your career in politics. I truly believe that to further ones career in politics one must do the right thing for the people, not the corporations. I am a GCI employee but in all three short years of my employment here I have seen nothing less than people around me bending over backwards for the community and the customers including try to lower rates and improve quality. One story I will share with you hits home to the sort of people we have here:

A family member lost telephone service at her home. Her service was through ACS. The loss was due to some digging in her yard. She called ACS quite upset about losing service but admitted to them she wasn't after all angry with them. She explained that her husband was away on military duty and the she had three kids at home, one of which was an infant. They told her they couldn't do anything for her for an extended period of time. Having a sick child at home and her being sick as well sent her into a more desperate state if you will. She called me and explained the situation; she was very upset and pretty quick in describing the circumstance. I assumed she was a GCI customer. I got on my cell phone, with her on the land line and called GCI Technicians, they listened to the situation asked for her phone number and placed me on hold. I was on hold for quite awhile. Upon return of the Technician I was informed that ACS was called and the problem would be handled right away. I asked "ACS? WHY was ACS called?" The GCI employee then informed me that she was an ACS customer. I didn't know the person I was talking to, so they were not doing me any "favors", however they took it upon themselves to call ACS and take care of this for a customer that wasn't even ours.

Please reconsider your actions regarding HB111 and the negative outcome that passing this bill with the amendments will surely have.

Respectfully,
Rachelle A. Alger

Protect your PC - get McAfee.com VirusScan Online
http://clinic.mcafee.com/clinic/ibuy/campaign.asp?cid=3963

Subject: HB111
Date: Fri, 16 May 2003 15:46:43 -0800
From: Jd Schultz <jd@gci.net>
To: Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us

Dear Representative McGuire,

I am concerned about proposed special interest legislation that will increase consumer and business local phone rates. Although the special interests pushing this legislation are calling it pro-competitive, the proposed legislation is both anti-competitive and anti-consumer.

Proposed legislation has been added to HB111 to extend the life of the Regulatory Commission of Alaska. Please protect ratepayers throughout Alaska by extending the life of the Regulatory Commission with no special interest amendments.

Please, no amendments to HB111. Support it just as introduced by Governor Murkowski.

Sincerely,

Jerome Schultz
2534 Brookstone Lp
Anchorage, AK 99515

Subject: Please support HB 111 and all its critical amendments
Date: Fri, 16 May 2003 14:40:13 -0800
From: "Kellman, Casey (Carol)" <CKellman@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

I work in the Telecommunications industry and I find myself in a situation where my company is not allowed to compete. My job security and retirement are at stake. Please support HB 111 and all its critical amendments.

ACS should be allowed to compete by the same rules as GCI. For example, ACS should be allowed to bundle together regulated and unregulated services such as local, long distance, Internet and Wireless (the cable monopoly- GCI- has been able to do this for over seven years). I encourage you to support HB 111 and all its critical amendments.

What we have witnessed through full-page ads, radio spots, Internet sites, and political maneuvering is an attempt to maintain a structure, which requires ACS to subsidize its chief competitor, GCI, the cable monopolist. This subsidy takes root in lease rates that are a mere fraction of the true cost ACS has incurred. I encourage you to support HB 111 and all its critical amendments.

Would ACS raise its Local and/or Business Customer Rates by $100 million annually? Of course not. Such action by ACS would drive customers to the competition. ACS would raise its interconnection fees so that GCI was paying a compensatory rate for use of the ACS Network. This is competition at work.

When House Bill 111 as amended passes, Alaskan telecommunications consumers will have real competition for the first time. Competition which allows all service providers to offer their "best" deals because all the competing companies will be operating under the same set of rules on a level playing field.

As a voter in your district, I encourage you to represent my family and myself when you cast your vote on this important legislation. Please support HB 111 and all its critical amendments.

Forcing ACS to subsidize its competitors is not competition. Please vote to support HB 111 and all its critical amendments.

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Subject: HB111
Date: Fri, 16 May 2003 14:45:26 -0800
From: mdthompson@gci.net
To: Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us

Lesil, I live in your district and happily voted for you in this last election and I am extremely opposed to the ammendments on HB111. I am worried about how the this would effect my utility rates & how lack of competition will decrease the technologies that I rely upon.

Subject: House Bill 111 with amendments
Date: Fri, 16 May 2003 14:58:44 -0800
From: "Bill Bissett" <bbissett@kib.co.kodiak.ak.us>
To: "Lesil McGuire (E-mail)" <representative.lesil.mcguire@legis.state.ak.us>

Dear Mrs.. McGuire,
I'm e-mailing you to ask for your support with this Bill 111 with it's amendments. I don't have to tell you how unfair these cheap phone, Johnny come latelys, are to get unfair advantage over others.
Thanking you in advance,
Bill Bissett

Subject: My testimony on CSHB11
Date: Fri, 16 May 2003 16:02:07 -0700
From: akpirg@akpirg.org
To: Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us

Comment on CSHB 111

Stephen Conn

Alaska Public Interest Research Group

<?xml:namespace prefix = st1 ns = "urn:schemas-microsoft-com:office:smarttags" />May 16, 2003

<?xml:namespace prefix = o ns = "urn:schemas-microsoft-com:office:office" />

I have attempted for two days to testify on the bill which would strip the RCA of regulatory authority over retail telephone service in Alaska. This substitution for RCA authority at the 11th hour ignores the consumer perspective.

ACS not only inherited the infrastructure of telephone equipment in each of Alaska's major cities but- by definition- 100 percent of the customer base. In addition, it has received favorable treatment from local taxing authorities.

Consumer complaints regarding customer service by ACS have been persistent to the RCA. Those statistics are available at that agency. Chief among these complaints was the refusal of ACS to extend copper wire to new housing developments because consumers might opt to go with GCI. ACS knew full well that this was its obligation when it purchased those properties. Apparently it assumed it could change the rules of the game before the RCA or before the Legislature.

The Alaska Telephone Association is comprised of monopolies. What it desires is unregulated authority to retain the powers of a monopoly to dictate terms of entry into the market.

Barriers to entry in the Alaska Market are higher than in the lower 48. So rewarding

those phone companies who hold both the original infrastructure and the original customer base with a singular finding that any competition means complete deregulation will both allow these players to act in a predatory fashion to their customers and to would-be competitors.

Real competition will be retained and achieved only if the RCA is allowed to police the market top to protect the consumers. How rarely was consumer protection or their interests mentioned in your hearings!

Here is an analysis of the bill:

1. The changes contemplated will kill off competition and allow for exploitation of both residential and business customers. The changes encourage perpetuation of monopolistic practices inimical to a competitive market. The bill's stated purposes are lies.
2. The 60 percent definition whether applied as a statewide definition or as a local market definition will guarantee that there will be no "dominant carriers." In the same manner that your redefinition of "lobbyist" did not eliminate these figures and their ability to buy favorable support as they fell out of

the restrictions of the campaign finance reform law., the native –but now deregulated dominant carriers will continue to influence the market. Ironically, this definition would reward those players who sought to lower their customer base to trigger deregulation by the terms of this proposed law.

3. To employ IRS rules of depreciation means guaranteed rate increases to customers, this for the same proponents who desire to be immune from requests for either retrofitting or improvement of their equipment.
4. As soon as the market is deemed "competitive," it will be deregulated. It will not be monitored- as in Illinois-for future changes or future predatory behavior by one or more players that perverts a truly competitive market. RCA will be permanently out of the picture.
5. If consumers want to know the telephone rates, they can either visit the company or check the web for updates. With the RCA out of the picture, there will be no

mediator for consumers.

I am sure you are aware that Governor Murkowski has already made major changes in staff at RCA and sharply reduced the role of the Public Advocacy Section. Apparently this is not enough for the ACS and the Alaska Telephone Association. They are demanding more blood from consumers for their future campaign contributions.

If you deliver, you will sacrifice both residential and business consumers, both rural and urban. Sooner or later consumers will learn what happened however skillfully CSHB111 is run through the state legislative process.

Subject: Support HB 111
Date: Fri, 16 May 2003 14:15:22 -0800
From: "anne fleming" <sham@ptialaska.net>
To: <representative_lesil_mcguire@legis.state.ak.us>,
<representative_tom_anderson@legis.state.ak.us>,
<representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us>, <representative_jim_holm@legis.state.ak.us>,
<representative_ralph_samuels@legis.state.ak.us>,
<representative_les_gara@legis.state.ak.us>,
<representative_max_gruenberg@legis.state.ak.ua>

I am proud to say I've worked for ACS and its predecessor companies for 30 years. We've strived to bring the most state-of-the-art telecommunications system to all areas of Alaska.

It is extremely crucial that ACS be allowed to function as a true competitor. ACS should be allowed to bundle regulated and nonregulated services as GCI has done for many years. This is what the public expects and deserves.

GCI receives federal support dollars and they should not be allowed to lease facilities at below-cost rates. I don't know of another business that is forced to subsidize its competition.

As a dedicated Alaskan citizen and voter, I encourage you to represent myself and my family in this important matter. Please support HB 111 and its critical amendments. This will preserve Alaskan jobs and ensure true competition that will bring greater benefits for all Alaskans now and in the future.

Anne Fleming

Citizen and Voter – House District 31; Senate P

Don Fleming

sham@ptialaska.net

Donald.Fleming@gesupply.com

Subject: HB111
Date: Fri, 16 May 2003 14:34:22 -0800
From: "Joni Johnson" <joni.johnson@acsalaska.net>
To: <Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.state.ak.us>,
<Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us>,
<Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.state.ak.us>,
<Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.state.ak.us>,
<Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.state.ak.us>,
<Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us>, <Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us>

Let's set the record straight. Yes, Alaska Communications Systems is seeking RCA changes. The amendments are not about consumer rates; instead they seek a level playing field between two companies. The issues are complex, but boil down to this: Who should earn profit on ACS investments, ACS or GCI? And should the $360 million (market value) GCI receive special regulatory protection from the far smaller $80 million (market value) ACS?

One editorial said the legislation is bad because it will allow ACS to more quickly depreciate equipment. In fact, it is intended to level the playing field-to allow ACS to depreciate equipment at the same rapid rates as its chief competitor, GCI, does.

That editorial also says the legislation will allow ACS to increase the amount it charges GCI for leasing ACS facilities. Today, ACS is required by state regulators to lease ACS facilities to GCI at a fraction of the true cost. In fact, it costs ACS in Fairbanks $30 per line to provide GCI service in Fairbanks, yet regulators ordered ACS to make facilities available to GCI for about $19 per month. On each line ACS provides to GCI, ACS loses $11 per month, while GCI can make a profit substantially more than ACS' losses.

The editorial says the legislation would require GCI to pay ACS for use of equipment even after customers leave ACS. This is not true. The truth seems stranger than fiction; regulators now require ACS to construct new facilities for GCI to serve GCI customers--ACS is required to finance its competitor's capital costs. In theory, ACS should recover the facilities' cost over the next 20 years through monthly lease rates. But if GCI does, as planned, migrate its customers to its own network, the facilities ACS built for GCI will become unused and their costs never recovered. It is in these situations that ACS asks to be fairly compensated.

Finally, the editorial asserts that ACS would be allowed to increase rates without approval from regulators. In fact, that's what GCI can do today. Today GCI can change its rates whenever it wants by simply filing them with the RCA. ACS, on the other hand, goes through lengthy rate review proceedings, sometimes taking more than two years, before initiating new marketing campaigns. The amendments aren't about rate increases; they're about a level playing field.

Price regulation is necessary when there is no competition. Fairbanks has competition for local phone service, so there is no reason to give one company--GCI--a competitive advantage over another--ACS, by regulating only ACS' prices.

Telephone issues are complex, and we all get tired of legislative "phone wars." So let's look at a newspaper analogy. Suppose the News-Miner were a regulated monopoly, and a competitor came to town, and regulators required the following:

* The new paper could use the News-Miner's presses, but the News-Miner couldn't charge what it costs to print the new paper;
* News-Miner carriers would have to deliver the new paper on their regular routes, but the News-Miner would have to pay the carriers and couldn't get full reimbursement from the new paper;
* If the new paper attracted a new customer 40 miles outside Fairbanks, the News-Miner would have to deliver the new paper to that customer. But once again, couldn't get paid the full cost by the new paper;
* The News-Miner would have to publish the price of every advertising deal two weeks in advance, but the new paper could price advertising however it wanted, and could change the prices after reading the News-Miner's prices.

Sound far-fetched? It is, but those are essentially the circumstances ACS now faces. The ACS proposed amendments to HB 111 are designed to level the playing field, allowing fair competition. That's what the Illinois Legislature and governor just did, passing a similar bill to ensure fair competition in local telephone service.

And while we're talking about fair competition, have you ever wondered why monopoly cable rates aren't regulated, while competitive phone rates are? Or why cable rates have increased more than 75 percent in 10 years, while phone rates have fallen? Or why ACS is required to let GCI use ACS' phone lines, but GCI isn't required to let ACS use GCI's cable lines? Those would be good questions to ask if the News-Miner wants balanced treatment of telecommunications issues, and a level competitive playing field.

This was written by Brian Rogers, who is a director of Alaska Communications Systems Inc. and Jim Sampson, who is head of the Alaska State AFL-CIO, but common sense would beg a thinking person to agree.

Thank you for your time.

Joni Johnson
ACS Internet Service Center Manager
907-565-2558
joni.johnson@acsalaska.net

Subject: RCA_House Bill 111
Date: Fri, 16 May 2003 13:19:49 -0800
From: "Jon Shepherd" <jshep@nhtiusa.com>
To: <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us>

Dear Representative McGuire,

This email is to express my views regarding the Regulatory Commission of Alaska. Competition is a good thing, but competition must be fair. House Bill 111, with all amendments is the only practical way to ensure that the RCA has the necessary tools, as well as the necessary constraints, to insure that the market for telecom services is regulated fairly and in the best interests of Alaska residents. The RCA has favored one major telecommunications carrier that still tries to represent itself as an underdog, when in fact they have become the dominant carrier. They would have us believe that the status quo regarding the RCA is somehow "fair competition" and that those pushing for the amendments are "special interests". Actually, I believe the inverse is true, and the amendments are needed to provide FAIR competition among carriers.

I support fair competition with no carrier receiving unfair advantage. The amendments are needed to level the playing field that has been skewed by previous action. I encourage you to support HB-111 with all amendments

Thank you for your consideration on this matter. Please feel free to call if you have any questions regarding my position, 907-761-6012.

Jon Shepherd

Subject: HB 111 legislation
Date: Fri, 16 May 2003 12:03:40 -0800
From: Arthur Corliss <arthur@corlissfamily.org>
To: Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us

Greetings:

As an Anchorage and Alaskan resident I wanted to voice my opinion on the bill you are now considering (HB 111). Before doing so, I must provide the following disclaimer: while I believe I have an objective perspective on this matter it must be disclosed that I am currently an ACS employee. I would point out, too, though, that I used to be GCI employee as well, so I think I have some insight to the truth due to personal observations.

Let's be clear: both companies are guilty of attempting to manipulate public opinion and legislation to give them an advantage in the marketplace. Any attempts by either to paint themselves as altruistically campaigning on behalf of the consumer should be reject as absurd and disingenious.

That said, I would like to see some of the amendments proposed for guiding the RCA passed. The truth is very simple: regulation of the price of wholesale services provided between competitors does not provide any protection for the incumbent LEC against the real rising costs of delivery. It is absolutely true that it is (to an extent) a subsidy for the competition. It may have been necessary at one time for fledging competition, but it is no longer appropriate for a well established and entrenched competition.

This is further compounded by the advantages CLECs have in being able to bundle regulated and unregulated services and not having to maintian money-losing ventures in rural areas since they are not the carrier of last resort. All advantages that are denied to the ILEC.

I believe that it is imperative that wholesale services be sold at realistic levels which are adjusted dynamically according to the true costs incurred in the market place. I also believe that large and established competitors should start sharing the cost of delivering services to areas that are not economically viable.

Failure to do either of these things makes a mockery of any concept of a "competitive marketplace" in Alaska, and reduces the benefit to the consumer. If we are indeed capitalists then it is time to truly allow market forces to take effect, and quit penalizing the ILEC simply because it existed prior to the competition. Again: the competition has been well established in Alaska, there is no reason to continue treating them as fledging operations that would disappear without such subsidies.

It is my sincere hope that you will pass HB 111 with all amendments in tact.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

--Arthur Corliss
Bolverk's Lair -- http://arthur.corlissfamily.org/
Digital Mages -- http://www.digitalmages.com/
"Live Free or Die, the Only Way to Live" -- NH State Motto

Subject: PASS HB 111 WITH AMENDMENTS
Date: Fri, 16 May 2003 12:15:00 -0800
From: Barb <iceworm@alaska.net>
To: Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us, Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.state.ak.us, Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us, Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us, Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.state.ak.us, Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us, Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.state.ak.us

Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us
Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.state.ak.us
Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us
Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us
Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.state.ak.us
Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us
Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.state.ak.us

Dear Legislators:

I am an Alaska Supervoter. Please note that I wish to let everyone know that I do not approve of the way you are removing the AMENDMENTS attached to HB111. The bill without the amendments does not allow for fair competition in the State of Alaska.

Please pass the HB111 WITH ALL AMENDMENTS to allow for fair competition. It is way beyond the time for this problem to be fairly resolved.

Thank you.

Barb Jansen
P.O.Box 3609
Palmer AK 99645-3609
Phone: 746-2963
Fax: 746-2964

Subject: HB 111 legislation
Date: Fri, 16 May 2003 11:22:09 -0800
From: "Valencia, Haydee" <HValenci@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_Mcguire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_Mcguire@legis.state.

Dear Representative:

As a voter in your district, I encourage you to represent my family and myself when you cast your vote on this important legislation. Please support HB 111 and all its critical amendments.

Forcing ACS to subsidize its competitors is not competition. Please vote to support HB 111 and all its critical amendments.

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Subject: HB 111
Date: Fri, 16 May 2003 11:16:34 -0800
From: silenus@alaska.net
To: Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us

I have worked in the Telecommunications industry for many years and I find myself in a situation where my company is not allowed to compete…. my job security, retirement, and my children's future are at stake. Please support HB 111 and all its critical amendments.

ACS should be allowed to compete by the same rules as GCI. For example, ACS should be allowed to bundle together regulated and unregulated services such as local, long distance, Internet and Wireless (the cable monopoly- GCI- has been able to do this for over seven years). I encourage you to support HB 111 and all its critical amendments.

What we have witnessed through full-page ads, radio spots, Internet sites, and political maneuvering is an attempt to maintain a structure, which requires ACS to subsidize its chief competitor, GCI, the cable monopolist. This subsidy takes root in lease rates that are a mere fraction of the true cost ACS has incurred. I encourage you to support HB 111 and all its critical amendments.

Would ACS raise its Local and/or Business Customer Rates by $100 million annually? Of course not. Such action by ACS would drive customers to the competition. ACS would raise its interconnection fees so that GCI was paying a compensatory rate for use of the ACS Network. This is competition at work.

When House Bill 111 as amended passes, Alaskan telecommunications consumers will have real competition for the first time. Competition which allows all service providers to offer their "best" deals because all the competing companies will be operating under the same set of rules on a level playing field.

As a voter in your district, I encourage you to represent my family and myself when you cast your vote on this important legislation. Please support HB 111 and all its critical amendments.

Forcing ACS to subsidize its competitors is not competition. Please vote to support HB 111 and all its critical amendments.

Yours truly,
Robert James

Subject: HB 111 w/Amendments
Date: Fri, 16 May 2003 09:46:55 -0800
From: "Battle, Sabrina" <SBattle@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

I would like to voice my concerns about HB 111 w Amendments. I realize that we live in a competetive world and I also feel as though since that is a fact all rules should apply to all businesses. There should not be one set of rules for one business and not the other. It should be a fair and equal playing field across the board. Whatever happened to "do unto others as you would have them do unto you"? As an ACS employee I am exposed to the daily abuse we get from our competitor's customers (because of the way the "Law" is written) about why they have to wait for their service, and GCI said to call you, and GCI does not charge for this and that and so and so on. What they are not telling the customers is that they will have to raise their prices and charge customers to establish service. Why do we have to build and maintain our lines at a high cost and then lease them to the competition for a lower cost, have them sell our own lines at a even lower cost to sometimes our own customers? Where is the fairness in that? The time we spend on the phone trying to convince the competitions's customers that we are not the villians here we could be spending giving our customers the care that they need. Also why can't we lease GCI's cable lines and resell them? I wholeheartedly support the HB 111 with amendments and I pray that you all do the right thing in passing it.

Sincerely,

Sabrina Battle

Sabrina Battle
Customer Service Representative
459-6153

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Subject: House Bill 111
Date: Fri, 16 May 2003 09:48:02 -0800
From: ibewjno@ptialaska.net
To: Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us, Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.state.ak.us, Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us, Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us, Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.state.ak.us, Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us, Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.state.ak.us

Fairbanks Daily News-Miner

ACS just wants level field
By Brian Rogers and Jim Sampson

Friday, May 16, 2003 - Two News-Miner editorials criticize amendments to House Bill 111, extending the Regulatory Commission of Alaska, as "special interest legislation."

Let's set the record straight. Yes, Alaska Communications Systems is seeking RCA changes. The amendments are not about consumer rates; instead they seek a level playing field between two companies. The issues are complex, but boil down to this: Who should earn profit on ACS investments, ACS or GCI? And should the $360 million (market value) GCI receive special regulatory protection from the far smaller $80 million (market value) ACS?

One editorial said the legislation is bad because it will allow ACS to more quickly depreciate equipment. In fact, it is intended to level the playing field-to allow ACS to depreciate equipment at the same rapid rates as its chief competitor, GCI, does.

That editorial also says the legislation will allow ACS to increase the amount it charges GCI for leasing ACS facilities. Today, ACS is required by state regulators to lease ACS facilities to GCI at a fraction of the true cost. In fact, it costs ACS in Fairbanks $30 per line to provide GCI service in Fairbanks, yet regulators ordered ACS to make facilities available to GCI for about $19 per month. On each line ACS provides to GCI, ACS loses $11 per month, while GCI can make a profit substantially more than ACS' losses.

The editorial says the legislation would require GCI to pay ACS for use of equipment even after customers leave ACS. This is not true. The truth seems stranger than fiction; regulators now require ACS to construct new facilities for GCI to serve GCI customers--ACS is required to finance its competitor's capital costs. In theory, ACS should recover the facilities' cost over the next 20 years through monthly lease rates. But if GCI does, as planned, migrate its customers to its own network, the facilities ACS built for GCI will become unused and their costs never recovered. It is in these situations that ACS asks to be fairly compensated.

Finally, the editorial asserts that ACS would be allowed to increase rates without approval from regulators. In fact, that's what GCI can do today. Today GCI can change its rates whenever it wants by simply filing them with the RCA. ACS, on the other hand, goes through lengthy rate review proceedings, sometimes taking more than two years, before initiating new marketing campaigns. The amendments aren't about rate increases; they're about a level playing field.

Price regulation is necessary when there is no competition. Fairbanks has competition for local phone service, so there is no reason to give one company--GCI--a competitive advantage over another--ACS, by regulating only ACS' prices.

Telephone issues are complex, and we all get tired of legislative "phone wars." So let's look at a newspaper analogy. Suppose the News-Miner were a regulated monopoly, and a competitor came to town, and regulators required the following:

* The new paper could use the News-Miner's presses, but the News-Miner couldn't charge what it costs to print the new paper;

* News-Miner carriers would have to deliver the new paper on their regular routes, but the News-Miner would have to pay the carriers and couldn't get full reimbursement from the new paper;

* If the new paper attracted a new customer 40 miles outside Fairbanks, the News-Miner would have to deliver the new paper to that customer. But once again, couldn't get paid the full cost by the new paper;

* The News-Miner would have to publish the price of every advertising deal two weeks in advance, but the new paper could price advertising however it wanted, and could change the prices after reading the News-Miner's prices.

Sound far-fetched? It is, but those are essentially the circumstances ACS now faces. The ACS proposed amendments to HB 111 are designed to level the playing field, allowing fair competition. That's what the Illinois Legislature and governor just did, passing a similar bill to ensure fair competition in local telephone service.

And while we're talking about fair competition, have you ever wondered why monopoly cable rates aren't regulated, while competitive phone rates are? Or why cable rates have increased more than 75 percent in 10 years, while phone rates have fallen? Or why ACS is required to let GCI use ACS' phone lines, but GCI isn't required to let ACS use GCI's cable lines? Those would be good questions to ask if the News-Miner wants balanced treatment of telecommunications issues, and a level competitive playing field.

Brian Rogers is a director of Alaska Communications Systems Inc. Jim Sampson is head of the Alaska State AFL-CIO.

Subject: HB 111 with all amendments
Date: Fri, 16 May 2003 09:07:42 -0800
From: "Sherwood II, Donald E." <DSHERWOO@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Senator_John_Cowdery@legis.state.ak.us'" <Senator_John_Cowdery@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.sta
"'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat
"'Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.sta
"'Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Les_Garsa@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Les_Garsa@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.s

Dear Representatives & Senator,

I have lived in Anchorage for 27 years and have worked in the telecommunications industry for over 20 years. I have worked for ACS/ATU for 12 years in Anchorage. I feel that my job security, retirement and my children's future are in jeopardy with the current RCA administration. ACS should be allowed to compete by the same rules as GCI. If GCI is allowed and helped out to operate without the regulatory restrictions as we are, it will only be a matter of time before our competitor is able maneuver and recruit our most profitable subscribers. The local phone services sold to our neighborhoods by both telecommunication businesses is a prime example of what unfair regulatory tariffs can do. ACS no longer holds the higher percentage of local phone loops provided. We had to hold to unfair RCA regulations causing our company to lose thousands of local residents phone services.

I welcome competition and a fair playing ground for everyone., I ask that you support HB 111 and all of its amendments.

Arthur Gonzales
CT-Cable Splicer, ACS, Anchorage.

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Subject: HB 111 with Amendments
Date: Fri, 16 May 2003 09:12:25 -0800
From: "Granger, Jenifer" <JGranger@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

Dear Elected Official,

I began working for ACS two years ago. My husband has been here for four years.

Before I began working at ACS, I had heard general stories about ACS and GCI but thought, well, it seems so one-sided there must be a part of the story that I just don't understand or know about.

To my surprise, I've learned that it really is as one sided as it seemed.

I do understand and support bringing competition into markets. And I do understand that typically the competition has a struggle in the beginning competing. So, believe it or not, I do understand the competition receiving a little assistance in the beginning to get them up and running. What I don't understand is why, when the incumbent company is about to be drowned by carrying the competition that this is continuing?

I know this is hard, but if you would, imagine just for a moment if ACS was YOUR company. Imagine if ACS was YOUR entire family's livelihood. And the government took away all the tools your company uses to support itself. Can you now see the injustice?

And to add insult to injury, every time I hear GCI's lies and half-truths on the radio and TV I'm physically sick to my stomach that GCI gets away with what they do and that people actually believe their fear tactics. And that my family and co-workers are directly hurt by these tactics.

How has the RCA gone unchecked for so long. How can the RCA be so obviously biased? How has this continued?

Please, vote for what you know is right. Vote with your conscious. If you do vote to extend the RCA, vote to extend it with the amendments.

My family, my 9 year-old son is depending on you.

Thank you for your time.

P.S. Lesil, thank you for being not being afraid to stand up for justice. We will remember.

Jenifer Granger
Alaska Super Voter
Jenifer Granger
ACS Training Department
(907)564-1151 (907)562-3051fax

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Subject: HB 111
Date: Fri, 16 May 2003 11:39:50 -0500
From: "Regina Henneman" <btrfly@cheerful.com>
To: Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us

HB111 with Amendments - PLEASE

This is a plea to be heard that we NEED HB111 with Amendments -
As we know life is not always fair and sometimes things truly get OUT OF BALANCE . . . So when there is an opportunity to put things back in balance, to better serve the public and make things fair . . . we need to reach out and seize that opportunity.

Pass HB111 with Amendments

Not sure where to start- I am proud to be an Alaskan of 28 years, a registered voter, an avid volunteer in the community and truly believe that changes need to be made.

As a consumer: In Alaska I know that we pay higher prices for many things - (shipping, fresh vegetables etc.) that is the price we pay for living here. Yes!! Living here is certainly worth it. When it comes to the necessities of living - water, lights, telephone, cable you would like to shop around but usually there is only one sole source. What ever the cost, these items are necessities and you have NO choice but to pay. I have no choice when it comes to cable services -I have been a customer of GCI Cable, Inc since there were Prime Cable of Alaska (too far out for Satellite-other wise I would choose to switch). My services that were once $29.50 a month are know $65.99 (prices have gone up twice in the last year) Hmmmmmmmm!!!! All the negative newspapers adds about ACS raising there telephone prices and GCI didn't - yet my cable bill went up at that time! Made me wonder!

HB111 with Amendments - PLEASE

As an employee: I am very proud to say I am employed by Alaska Communications Systems as a Customer Service Representative. My job is to provide quality customer service when establishing phone services for our customers. There are many restrictions that make providing that quality of service a difficult task. I do believe that if the government allows two companies to provide the same services that they should be governed by the same guidelines. When my customer calls . . . to establish local residential services I can assist them, if my customer inquires about long distance choices, internet choices - I am required to transfer them to another department. And as any of us KNOW waiting on hold and then to only get a portion of the services then to get transferred to someone else - this tends to be frustrating, aggravating and makes you wonder why this company can't do it all?!?!! I assure my customer this is to better service them and to provide the quality of service they are requesting. This is SO frustrating - and often customer states well GCI does……..this and GCI does that…….

My biggest concern is for the customer - they chose to sign up for GCI and their phone service takes to long and they are told ACS is holding up the line and to call ACS or they call for cable service and are automatically switched to GCI for phone service. Or an example of telemarketing gone bad - a 94 year old customer of ACS living at the Pioneer Home was solicited and switched to GCI not knowing that is what was done.

In closing - please make the telecommunications market FAIR. This is IMPORTANT for the customer, the companies involved and the employees.

Thank you for any consideration made in this matter! Regina L. Henneman

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Sign-up for your own FREE Personalized E-mail at Mail.com
http://www.mail.com/?sr=signup

Subject: HB111
Date: Fri, 16 May 2003 08:06:31 -0800
From: "Campbell, Harold" <HCampbel@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

Ms. McGuire,

Thank you for your support of the telecom industry in regards to HB111.

I have worked for ACS (ATU) for the last 27 years and am concerned about parity in the industry. I would like you to strongly consider supporting the amended version of HB111. The 'reverse discrimination' implemented by deregulation of the industry was to prevent monopoly and allow a foothold for competition. The situation has now progressed to the point of LECs subsidizing anyone wanting to enter the communications market. If a free market place is best for competition then it is time to allow the LECs to compete and the ALECs to pay their fair share of the infrastructure costs.

I am sure you are swamped with the budget and session closure so I will not list all my concerns. However, if you need any further input I will help any way I can.

Thank you and good luck

hc

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Subject: HB 111 with amendments
Date: Fri, 16 May 2003 07:47:01 -0800
From: ~ec~ Stephen Johnson <pidge@ptialaska.net>
To: <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us>

Rep. Mcguire,
As a voter in your district, an ACS employee, and consumer I ask that you support HB 111 in amended form in order to allow fair competition in Alaska's telecommunications industry. The inclusion of these amendments is critical; without them my job (and that of many others) is at serious risk.
Thank you
Elinor Banisch

Subject: HB111
Date: Fri, 16 May 2003 07:28:13 -0800
From: "Jeff Retterer" <retterer@bigfoot.com>
Reply-To: "Jeff Retterer" <jeff.retterer@acsalaska.net>
To: <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us>

Representative McGuire,

I am a twenty year employee of ACS/FMUS. I am writing to ask you to support HB111 including all amendments. GCI has been given an unfair advantage by the RCA. Please allow true competition, through a level playing field, to occur. I encourage you to read the Community Perspective in the Friday edition of the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner. Brian Rogers and Jim Sampson lay out the case for HB111 and its amendments very well. Why is it that a company such as GCI, that is valued at approximately 360 million dollars, is in need of regulatory protections from ACS, valued at approximately 80 million dollars. Why is the RCA mandating corporate welfare for the larger company? Why is GCI concerned about the rates people pay for their local telephone service and their long distance telephone service but are not worried about what people pay for their cable television service? GCI is not interested in competition; they are only interested in a free ride. To date the RCA has given GCI a free ride. Please support HB111 with all amendments. Level the playing field. Make GCI earn their profit.

Subject: HB 111
Date: Fri, 16 May 2003 06:19:12 -0800
From: Tony Hansen <tony.hansen@alaska.com>
To: Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us, Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.state.ak.us, Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us, Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us, Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.state.ak.us, Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us, Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.state.ak.us, Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us

May 16, 2003

Dear Representative,

It is my sincere hope that as my representative you will take the time to read this letter and seriously consider the consequences.

My youngest son has recently entered a trade and unfortunately his family and their well being is being threatened by "RCA" their friendly relationship with GCI and the supposed "Fair Competition" the RCA is invoking on ACS. My son and his little family are in the process of buying a home and raising my precious sixteen month old granddaughter who means the world to me. However, my voice is for myself as well. A "monopoly is a monopoly" no matter who owns it. The names can change but the game (and consequences to the public) remain the same.

It is totally unfair that the "RCA" continues to allow GCI to lease lines from ACS for the unfair costs of $14.19 per line and GCI is also allowed to continue receive Federal Government subsidizes of $10.00 per line for maintenance (that ACS is providing) on those same lines. This means the "supposed" fair competition allows GCI to sell a phone line for $30.00 a month and only pay $4.19 for that same line. ACS cannot even provide the line at COST for the rate of $30.00 a month. I would like to address another issue that may appear to be unrelated, but when a smart person takes a good look at the "whole" picture, one would see that a terrible monopoly is being born through it. Consider that GCI currently holds the monopoly in the cable industry in this area and interestingly enough, there is no legislation or legislating body such as RCA forcing GCI to share their cable wiring or access to certain buildings such as RCA is forcing ACS to do for GCI (thanks to the "special" relationship between GCI and RCA). Who is GCI that they have been given the right by the RCA to say that ACS is being unfair by asking them for fair market price for using their technology! Since the inception of the RCA and their "unfair dictates", GCI has failed to install any telecommunication equipment outside of their Central Office. Why would they, since their friend, RCA is allowing them to ride on ACS lines, ACS technology and ACS maintenance, for pennies on the dollar. When ACS is forced out of business, whose going to ensure that the big monster, "GCI" is controlled, since not only will they own a monopoly on the cable industry, but the telecommunications industry as well? It certainly won't be GCI's friend, RCA.

Somebody had better wake up and smell the roses and they better do it now.

I am asking you as one of your constituents to ensure that the critical amendments included in House Bill #111 are added to ensure truly "fair competition" in our community.

Sincerely,

Deborah K. Hansen

7555 Whitehawk Drive
Anchorage, AK 99507

Subject: HB 111 WITH AMENDMENTS PLEASE SUPPORT THIS BILL
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 22:46:15 -0800
From: "akclarks" <akclarks@acsalaska.net>
To: <Representative_Harry_Crawford@legis.state.ak.us>,
<Representative_Mike_Chenault@legis.state.ak.us>,
<Representative_John_Coghill@legis.state.ak.us>,
<Representative_Nancy_Dahlstrom@legis.state.ak.us>,
<Representative_Hugh_Fate@legis.state.ak.us>,
<Representative._Carl_Gatto@legis.state.ak.us>,
<Representative_John_Harris@legis.state.ak.us>,
<Representative_Mike_Hawker@legis.state.ak.us>,
<Representative_Cheryll_Heinze@legis.state.ak.us>,
<Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us>,
<Representative_Vic_Kohring@legis.state.ak.us>,
<Representative_Pete_Kott@legis.state.ak.us>,
<Representative_Bob_Lynn@legis.state.ak.us>,
<Representative_Beverly_Masek@legis.state.ak.us>,
<Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us>,
<Representative_Kevin_Meyer@legis.state.ak.us>,
<Representative_Carl_Morgan@legis.state.ak.us>,
<Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us>,
<Representative_Norman_Rokeberg@legis.state.ak.us>,
<Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.state.ak.us>,
<Representative_Paul_Seaton@legis.state.ak.us>,
<Representative_Bill_Stoltze@legis.state.ak.us>,
<Representative_Bruce_Weyhrauch@legis.state.ak.us>,
<Representative_Jim_Whitaker@legis.state.ak.us>,
<Representative_Bill_Williams@legis.state.ak.us>,
<Representative_Peggy_Wilson@legis.state.ak.us>,
<Representative_Kelly_Wolf@legis.state.ak.us>,
<Representative_Ethan_Berkowitz@legis.state.ak.us>,
<Representative_Sharon_Cissna@legis.state.ak.us>,
<Representative_Eric_Croft@legis.state.ak.us>,
<Representative_Richard_Foster@legis.state.ak.us>,
<Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us>,
<Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.state.ak.us>,
<Representative_David_Guttenberg@legis.state.ak.us>,
<Representative_Reggie_Joule@legis.state.ak.us>,
<Representative_Mary_Kapsner@legis.state.ak.us>,
<Representative_Beth_Kerttula@legis.state.ak.us>,
<Representative_Albert_Kookesh@legis.state.ak.us>,
<Representative_Carl_Moses@legis.state.ak.us>
CC: <sclark@acsalaska.com>, <Susan@acsalaska.com>

Dear Representative Crawford;

Please support HB 111 WITH AMENDMENTS only. The RCA must be taken in hand. Their efforts to make sure the consumers of Alaska are able to obtain Telephone service at a reasonable price is a mockery of common sense. I started working for ACS when it was still ATU in 1993. The message I would like to deliver, however is based on over 38 years in "service" industries. The competition in service industries should be based on customer service not on who can provide the service the cheapest. Especially when one private enterprise is forced to

subsidize the cost of doing business for another private enterprise.

Guaranteeing that all consumers can get dialtone at an affordable rate has already been addressed a Federal Action. It is called Residential Service Assistance. I know customer service. I also know how to sell. It has been said that I could sell ice in the ARCTIC, however, I have a golden rule. The customer comes first. If I cannot show the customer the value of the product to them, I cannot and will not sell that product to the customer. That is customer service. GCI's idea of customer service is to lobby a regulatory agency into forcing their chief competitor to pay for the cost of GCI doing business. GCI's idea of customer service is to tell their customer to CALL ACS, it's their fault you don't have dial tone. Or, how about this one: "GCI told me to call you to switch my service back to you so I could get it moved sooner, and then when I switch back to them, they will reimburse me the cost of moving the service". I lost count of the number of times I've answered the phone as a Customer Service Representative for ACS and heard that story. I'd like to think that more than 75% of the customers that told me that, stayed with ACS even AFTER we moved their service *because of the quality of the customer service that I provided*. More and more however, as the economy dips here and there, I am forced to watch the customer go with the cheapest rates. Rates that I cannot offer because my rates are regulated, and my company is not being subsidized by anyone other than the hard work and years of experience of our own employees.

As long as ACS is forced to lease facilities to GCI for a substantial amount less than what it actually costs to provide and maintain those facilities, GCI will be able to continue to win the customers, not because they are a more efficient company with better customer service but because RCA decisions are forcing ACS to subsidize them.

My job is in danger of going away. ACS can no longer afford to pay my wages while supporting GCI. and providing the infrastructure for them to steal our customers with cheaper rates due to biased decisions made under the guise of promoting competition. The number of calls I get from very nice, pleasant would be ACS customers that tell me in a very nice, pleasant way that they are sorry, but unless I can offer them the same deals for the same amount of money as GCI, they will go with GCI. I've always taken the high road on that, and thanked them for calling and told them I was very sorry I couldn't offer them the same thing. I've never told a customer that it was due to unfair and biased decisions made by the RCA. Based on actions by the RCA, GCI can well afford to resell services at a lower price than ACS can. We have been forced to wholesale those services to GCI at a substantial loss. HOW does that make the market a place where fair competition can thrive?

In short. I know how to make the phone. I know how to operate the phone. I know how to teach the customers how to operate the phone. I even know how to repair the phone. BUT I DON'T KNOW HOW TO SELL THE PHONE THAT I CAN NO LONGER AFFORD TO MAKE BECAUSE I HAD TO SELL SUPPLIES AND SERVICES TO MY COMPETITOR AT A LOSS.

Please help save my job. I'm 2 years from retirement and I cannot afford to go without work now.

Sincerely Sue Clark

Subject: Please continue support of HB 111 with amendments
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 23:03:42 -0800
From: "Stephanie Carroll" <Stephanie@AlaskaSlippers.com>
To: <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us>

Dear Representative McGuire,
I saw you on Channel 2 this evening and I agree wholeheartedly...it is the right thing to do to consider carefully what and how the RCA has operated for the last few years. Selling a product/service for less than cost is simply not sustainable for any company in any industry sector. It is not in Alaska's best interest for ACS to be so hampered that capital investments in building more infrastructure can't be made.

Please encourage true competition by supporting HB 111 with amendments. Yes, I do work for ACS as do many Alaskans. I've lived on the Kenai Peninsula for 17 years and I see my co-workers on the Chamber Boards, in Rotary, on the Challenger Learning Center Board, cleaning up the highway, participating in our communities. We need our company to be viable and we need our jobs. These are good jobs with good benefits; please help them stay that way. Our customers can only benefit from these changes; we want the chance to serve them better and at reduced cost to the consumer. ACS does not fear competition; we welcome it.

Sincerely,
Stephanie Carroll
Account Executive - Southwest District
Alaska Communications Systems, Inc.

Subject: Bill HB 111 with Amendments
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 23:04:54 -0800
From: "Ken,Darlene,Linda Buttolph" <lindab@ptialaska.net>
To: <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us>

I urge you to VOTE for HB 111 **with Amendments**. I live in your district.
It sounds like you are against this Bill. Let me help you to understand why these Amendments are important.

Lets say you just purchased a New H20 Hummer for $70,000, Now I want to lease this vehicle from you for Ten dollars a month, BUT you have to Pay for all the Maintenance and Gas. OH! don't forget you still have to make your Loan Payments and Pay for the Insurance.

Doesn't sound like a very good deal for you, does it. Well that is how it feels Leasing Facilities to GCI.

It Cost ACS a LOT more to install and maintain all the Facilities, than what GCI is Paying. Why would ACS want to continue to spend money, just so they can lease the Facilities to GCI for Cheaper, than they can even provide it to there Own Customers.

I feel we are forced to treat GCI, better than we treat our own Customers.

If you want to truly see Competition then you will **Vote FOR HB 111 WITH THE AMENDMENTS**

Subject: RCA & GCI have been screwing ACS & ATU for years !!
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 23:08:17 -0800
From: "Dan Zantek" <dan.zantek@acsalaska.net>
To: <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us>

Dear Rep. Lesil Mcguire,
It's refreshing to have some one like you alert to the problems with the RCA and their true sponsors, GCI.
They have been screwing ACS(formerly ATU) for years. Time to end the RCA or at least restrict them greatly to prevent anymore of their unfortunate decisions and delays.
Gov. Frank doesn't have a clue regarding this issue, but I think you are on the right track and I want to thank you.
Four more years of this "unrestricted" RCA is unacceptable.
Thank you again,

"Polka Dan" Zantek
Alaska resident since 1957
Rep. Norm Rokeberg and Sen. John Cowdery can vouch for me.

Subject: Fwd: In favor of HB 111 with Amendments
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 22:12:40 -0900
From: smokeylake@acsalaska.net
To: representative_lesil_mcguire@legis.state.ak.us
CC: representative_tom_anderson@legis.state.ak.us

Subject: In favor of HB 111 with Amendments
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 22:07:58 -0900
From: smokeylake@acsalaska.net
To: lesil_mcguire@legis.state.ak.us
CC: tom_anderson@legis.state.ak.us

I have lived in Alaska since 1984, I am a firm believer in competition and believe it is good for all. I am also a registered voter in the State of Alaska. Competition can be beneficial to the consumer when similar businesses have the same ground rules. We are not afraid of competition, we welcome it and have been preparing for it, for quite sometime as a 10 year plus employee of ATU and now ACS we have skilled dedicated workers who are your neighbors, friends people in the grocery store. We take pride in the work we do and only ask that the rules be made the same for all players. Competition is only competition when there are no special favors or rules to give a company an unfair advantage over their competitior. Let GCI compete with the same rules and limitations as other utilities, when they truly do this only then can they say they are the better company for product and services. It is easy to offer your customers the same service as their competitior for considerably les
s money when they use our services at a fraction of the cost. If I lived next door to you and made less money would you subsidize me so that I could have the same standard of living as you? I believe the answer would be no. So why is GCI given an unfair advantage? All we ask is for the playing field to be level and let competition do the rest. I have worked for ATU/ACS for 10.5 years. I guess you could say I am somewhat biased, I am not asking for special treatment of ACS only fair treatment, if GCI wants to compete then let them do soif having the same limitations/rules that ACS has. Please support HB111 with amendments and stop the special interests group from sabotaging competition. Thank you for your time.

Karen Hoeft
332-5262

Subject: In Support of HB 111, to Amend the RCA Regulations....
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 23:37:01 -0800
From: "James Noblin" <jnoblinsr@alaska.net>
To: <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us>,
<Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.state.ak.us>,
<Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us>, <Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us>,
<Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.state.ak.us>,
<Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us>,
<Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.state.ak.us>

In response to the hyperbole, distortion and, arguably outright false statements in an advertisement by GCI in the Sunday, 5-13-03 Anchorage Daily News Business section, I wish to respond to their ad by recording my support of HB 111 to the Rules Committee members.

While the intent of the 1996 FCC Local Telecommunications regulation, as it pertained to Unbundled Network Equipment owned by the Incumbent Carriers, was an attempt to encourage competition and economic benefit to the consumer, the enabling regulations had a long-term, much different effect as the Incumbent Carriers were required to provide service over their installed network, while the "Competitive" Carriers had little obligation beyond reselling network usage and service, and providing consumers with telephone numbers. The simplest description of this practice is to term these carriers as little more than brokers of goods and services provided by others.

The result is most analogous to a Travel Agent, providing a ticket to a passenger -- in essence, brokering and re-selling seats on equipment it has little or no obligation to select, finance or service, beyond satisfying a regulated, deliberately below-cost compensation fee to the actual provider selected and promulgated by a rate-and-fee-setting commission, without regard for available installed capacity, or available seats.

This fee, established to encourage and promote competition and benefit consumers, has resulted in a unique and unfair cost advantage to the new 'competitive' brokers, allowing them to pick and choose which network components they chose to resell, while not providing sufficient capital to establish expansion, maintain and extend current networks, nor upgrade essential network equipment.

This effect was by design, in order to allow the competitive carrier the means to establish presence in a market with pricing to increase market share and recover costs associated with establishing this presence. The inevitable result was a "churning" of de-provisioning and provisioning as customers, lured by price, switched service to the new providers.

The regulated fees paid to the incumbent were to simply allow the competitor to rent installed network facilities and did not cover the additional carrier costs involved with the churning, nor does it allow the Universal Service fee to be passed to the carrier actually doing the provisioning, nor allow sufficient profit for the incumbent to make improvements to it's network equipment in the face of adding customers to it's base subscribers without assurance those customers would not immediately switch to a provisioner not responsible to actually provision or maintain the circuits added. Regulated fees paid to the incumbents were designed to this end to give competitive opportunities to competitive carriers without the huge capital costs required by duplicating or building out an established network..

The duration of FCC-mandated fee regulation was to be limited to allow the competitors to establish a service base and obtain sufficient capital to be able to build out their own competitive network, or establish a financial basis for creating a wholesale/retail relationship with the incumbent carrier.

This goal has been largely met in Alaska , and the FCC has allowed for changes in regulatory fees and pricing. It is time to allow the marketplace, operating under financial reality, to establish rates and to allow the re-sellers and sellers of telecommunications to establish their own pricing levels with provisioning fees allowing coverage of actual costs and contingencies so sufficient capital resources are available to sustain the overall network and encourage new innovation in network capability.

Respectfully,

James W. Noblin

3501 E Huffman Rd, Anchorage, AK 99516 907-345-3697

A 'Super Voter' constituent of: Rep. Bob Lynn, Sen. Con Bunde

Subject: HB-111 & SB-72
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 23:46:08 -0800
From: "John Lee" <johnlee@nhtiusa.com>
To: <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us>

Dear Representative McGuire

I am writing to express my views concerning HB-111 and SB-72. I encourage you to support the amendments to HB-111 and to include similar language in SB-72. GCI would have us believe that the status quo regarding the RCA is somehow "competition" and that those pushing for the amendments are "special interests". Actually, I think the inverse is true. GCI is, in fact, the special interest at play here, and they are clearly desperate to retain an undeserved advantage.

GCI has cleverly manipulated the Telecom Act of 1996 into GCI becoming the dominant carrier in Alaska. I think that their rewards already have gone far beyond the spirit of the Act. The RCA has been in GCI's pocket and has clearly favored GCI to the detriment of AT&T Alascom and ACS. The HB-111 amendments are absolutely necessary to provide the restraints necessary to insure that the RCA is forced to regulate carriers even-handedly and in the public interest, not in the interest of GCI or anyone else. The amendments level the playing field and insure fair competition and also insure healthy technology growth and development of services available to Alaskans.

In the mid 1970's Alaska had the most modern telecommunications network that could be found anywhere. Today that is not the case. That is the price we paid for growing GCI into dominant carrier status. Other carriers have stopped growing as a result, severly retarding investment in new technology, causing Alaska to fall behind many other states in available service options, coverage, safety, and price.

GCI would have us believe that they are still the telecom underdog in Alaska and continue to need to leach subsidy from ACS and AT&T Alascom. Is it not a curiousity then, that ACS and AT&T are being forced to lay off many of their Alaskan workers while GCI enjoys corporate executive excess? For years now, GCI has a kept a fleet of expensive airplanes and other equipment to support their lavish executive lodge and retreat at Tikchik Lakes near Dillingham. This Enron-like behavior fails to convince me that GCI needs to continue to feed off the flesh of the other carriers, forcing them to sell services to GCI at less than cost so that GCI can underprice them using their own equipment, just so GCI can continue to live high on the hog.

I am one among many that is getting very tired of listening to GCI whine to the legislature. I'm tired of them hiring expensive movie actors to thrust their snow-job upon us. They have been at it so long I would guess they must consider us too dumb to believe anything else. It reminds me of a street beggar sporting a $1000 suit and Italian shoes. Something is wrong with the picture.

Once again, please support the language of the amendments. Promote growth and lowest possible consumer cost through fair competition.

Thank You,

John S. Lee

Subject: HB 111
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 21:45:38 -0800
From: "Matt Bowman" <matt.bowman@acsalaska.net>
To: <Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us>, <Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us>, <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us>, <Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.state.ak.us>, <Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.state.ak.us>, <Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.state.ak.us>

Dear Alaskan Representatives,

I am not one who normally takes the initiative to write my representatives how ever, I feel compelled to at this time. There is a great injustice being done to the wonderful residents of this great state, and I must get involved and speak my mind.

I write to you today as very concerned Alaskan, and as a regular voter and as a life long Alaskan. I have a **major concern over HB111 and it's critical amendments.**

I have worked in the Telecommunications industry for well over 10 years and I find myself in a very difficult situation. As I have been a life long Alaskan I have come to enjoy the consumer friendly market that competition has brought to this great state. Well I want to see that continue and I'm afraid I need your help for that to happen. I work for ACS, and while I try to not be biased, they are not allowed to compete evenly with GCI. ACS is not allowed to bundle it's many services as GCI now does and has been able to do for over 7 years. This does not benefit the consumer's as it truly could and should. What the legislature is allowing GCI to do is shameful. ACS is ***required*** to subsidize it's major competitor, GCI, *which is already the local cable monopoly*. This subsidy takes place in the form of lease rates that ACS is mandated to lease to GCI at a fraction of the cost that it truly takes to operate, maintain and deploy.

I encourage you to pass **HB111 and all of it's critical amendments.** When HB 111 as amended passes, Alaskan telecommunications consumers will have real competition for the first time in the history of the state. This competition will allow service providers to offer their best to the public because all of the competing companies will be playing on an even playing field.

Forcing ACS to subsidize it's competitors is not competition. Please vote to support HB 111 and all of it's critical amendments.

Thank you for your concern,

Matt Bowman
3425 Wesleyan Drive
Anchorage, Ak. 99508

House district 22, Senate K, Vid # 01161699

Subject: HB111
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 21:19:36 -0800
From: "J Thibault" <thibault@ptialaska.net>
To: <representative_lesil_mcguire@legis.state.ak.us>,
<representative_tom_anderson@legis.state.ak.us>,
<representative_dan_ogg@legis.state.ak.us>, <representative_jim_holm@legis.state.ak.us>,
<representative_ralph_samuels@legis.state.ak.us>,
<representative_les_gara@legis.state.ak.us>,
<representative_max_gruenberg@legis.state.ak.us>

Hello! I hope everyone here is a good listener. I wish to convey to you my support of HB111 w/amendments. I believe in competition, however, one must be fair in order to compete. GCI clearly has an advantage to destroy a long time successful business in the State of Alaska with out HB111 being approved. It is clear to me ACS should not be forced to subsidize its prime competitor. Please act with fairness and equality, the American way. Thanks for listening.

Sincerely,

Jean Thibault
18036 Birchwood Loop
Chugiak, Alaska 99567

Subject: HB111 W/Amendments
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 18:18:43 -0800
From: "Perry & Jeannie Carter" <akstuf@acsalaska.net>
To: <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us>

Thank you for continuing to support HB111 W/Amendments.

Perry Carter
Anchorage, Ak

AARP Alaska

Honorable Bill Williams, Co-Chair
House Finance Committee
Alaska Capitol, Room 515
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Honorable John Harris, Co-Chair
House Finance Committee
Alaska Capitol, Room 507
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

May 5, 2003

RE: HB 111 (Governor Murkowski) – Support Without Amendments

Dear Chairs Williams and Harris:

On behalf of the AARP members in Alaska, we encourage you and your colleagues on the House Finance Committee to support HB 111 as submitted by the House Rules Committee at the request of Governor Murkowski. We urge you to drop all amendments added in House Labor and Commerce.

HB 111, as submitted by Governor Murkowski, would reauthorize the Regulatory Commission of Alaska for a period of four years. Much of the debate over the RCA in the past has focused on the utilities supervised by the Regulatory Commission of Alaska and the relationship of the RCA with the entities it supervises. AARP relies on the RCA because it offers our members and all Alaskans the best opportunity to achieve basic consumer protections:

- The ability to make informed choices about utility services
- The security of safe and reliable energy and telecommunications services
- The assurance that sales practices and advertisements are fair, so they do not confuse, mislead, or frighten the public
- The reassurance that consumers receive accurate information, communicated clearly and in plain language so we understand our rights and remedies

3601 C Street, Suite 1420 | Anchorage, AK 99503 | 907-341-2277 | 907-341-2270 fax | 1-877-434-7598 TTY
James G. Parkel, President | William D. Novelli, Executive Director and CEO | www.aarp.org

The RCA assures consumers the right to affordable rates and access to such basic necessary services as utilities and communications. We emphasize "reasonable" rates but we also emphasize access for our rural citizens.

The RCA allows consumers an opportunity to participate in the governmental decision-making process that shapes the marketplace and ensures meaningful consumer input.

When wronged, the RCA offers consumers redress and complaint resolution.

AARP believes the Regulatory Commission of Alaska is necessary for our organization and for our members. Without the RCA, we would be deprived of any public oversight of energy and telecommunications services and, when a complaint is warranted, we would not have the RCA available and willing to listen to a consumer's side of an argument.

Unfortunately, the amendments added in the House Labor and Commerce Committee are all market changes that should be evaluated and resolved before the Regulatory Commission of Alaska in an open process, not via legislation.

As amended by the Labor and Commerce Committee, two pages are spent outlining the findings and purpose of the bill and contain some very strong and (according to our attorneys) unsubstantiated findings. Namely, the bill finds that (1) state law fails to recognize that policies designed to encourage competition are disproportionately burdensome and financially threatening to the state's small carriers, (2) Alaska's outdated policies impede deployment of advanced services, and (3) state law fails to reflect national policy. See, for example, section 1, subsections 3, 4 and 5. If this is true, a proceeding to alter the RCA rules should be initiated at the Commission. Section 2 prohibits the RCA from regulating the local incumbent carrier as the dominant carrier (where that company's market share is less than 60%) when another carrier enters the market. However there are no requirements for the new entrant's market share or service territory to justify such a change. Section 5 designates the local market in Anchorage and the statewide long distance market as competitive areas. The term "competitive service area" is defined as a service area in which at least 50% of all retail customers have a choice of "facilities-based providers." However the definition of what qualifies as "facilities based" is very broad and would include practically any kind of provider. A competitive carrier that offers only a "portion" of its products and services by means of facilities it owns or operates or via leased facilities or any combination thereof would create a competitive market. Section 6 prohibits the RCA from regulating a long distance carrier as a dominant carrier in the long distance market if the carrier's statewide market share is less than 60%. But, again, this type of change should be made by the RCA which can hold a public proceeding and has the

expertise to determine if such a change is truly in the public interest. Section 8 allows an incumbent carrier to immediately adjust and implement new rates for "existing" interconnection agreements with other carriers. The ability to exercise what appears to be unilateral authorization to alter an existing contract is fundamentally unfair.

The RCA protects our rights as consumers. We ask that the House Finance Committee support Governor Murkowski's bill to reauthorize the RCA for four years as a clean bill with no amendments. Our AARP families need it. All Alaskans need it. Please allow the RCA to do its job under its new leadership. The amendments offered by House Labor and Commerce do not belong in legislation and should be removed.

AARP urges an "AYE" vote on HB 111, without amendments.

Should you have any questions about our position, please feel free to contact Marie Darlin (907.586.3637), Coordinator of the AARP Capital City Task Force; Patrick Luby (907.762.3314), AARP Legislative Representative; or me (907.245.5259).

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Marguerite Stetson

Marguerite Stetson
AARP Alaska
Executive Council Member for Advocacy
3009 Northwood Street
Anchorage, AK 99517-1871
907.245.5259 voice
907.245.5279 fax
ffmas@aurora.uaf.edu

cc: Governor Frank Murkowski
Labor and Commerce Chair Tom Anderson
Labor and Commerce Vice-Chair Bob Lynn
Representative Nancy Dahlstrom
Representative Carl Gatto
Representative Norman Rokeberg
Representative Harry Crawford
Representative David Guttenberg
Finance Committee Vice-Chair Kevin Meyer

Representative Richard Foster
Representative Mike Hawker
Representative Mike Chenault
Representative Bill Stoltze
Representative Jim Whitaker
Representative Eric Croft
Representative Reggie Joule
Representative Carl Moses
Marie Darlin
Patrick Luby

5-15-03

(Kevin Meyers

Please support HB 111 with amendments to ensure an open & fair competition to Alaskans -

FORREST CHARLTON

Box 112929

Anch Ak 99511

5-15-03

Kevin Meyers

Please support HB 111 with amendments to ensure an open & fair competition to Alaskans -

Regina Charlton

Box 112929

Anch AK 99511

5-15-03

KEVIN MEYERS

Please support HB 111 with amendments to ensure an open & fair competition to Alaskans -

CAM CHARLTON

Box 112929
Anch ak 99511

Deanna C. Borgen
P.O. Box 244555
Anchorage, AK 99524

TO: ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
ATTN: House 24 Cheryll Heinze.

SUBJECT HB 111

Hi my name is Deanna Borgen I have worked in the Telecommunications industry for many years. I feel my job security, retirement and my family's well being and futures are at risk. If the amendments for HB111 are not kept in place I may lose my job.

When House Bill 111 as amended passes all Alaskan telecommunications consumers will have competition for the first time, and competing companies will have the same set of rules on a level playing field.

Please as a voter, I encourage you to represent my family and myself when you cast your VOTE on this important Legislation. Please Support HB 111 and all its critical Amendments.

Thank You
Deanna C. Borgen

May 13, 2003

Dear Bob Lynn,

I understand HB 111 is in danger of being stripped of all of its amendments I am writing to ask that you work to pass HB 111 with all of its amendments intact. This is crucial because if HB 111 passes without these amendments my job security + retirement are in jeopardy.

Respectfully,

Laurie Mack
6860 O'Malley
Anchorage, AK 99507

May 13, 2003

Dear Kevin Meyer,

I understand that HB 111 is in danger of being stripped of all its amendments. I am writing to ask that you work to pass HB 111 with all of its amendments intact. This is crucial because if HB 111 passes without these amendments my job security & retirement are in jeopardy.

Respectfully,

Laurie Mack
6860 O'Malley
Anchorage, AK 99507

My family and I are VERY CONCERNED about the implications of NOT passing HB 111. As the sole earner for my family, I am asking you to *PLEASE SUPPORT PASSING HOUSE BILL 111 WITH THE AMENDMENTS*. The future of our children and other families working in the telecommunications industry is depending on your support.

With sincere thanks,

Robert Scott Turney

Robert Scott and Pearline Turney
HOMER, ALASKA 99603

907-235-4741
e-Mail: turnips@alaska.net

Subject: HB111
Date: Wed, 14 May 2003 09:37:01 -0800
From: "Leder, Gary S." <GLeder@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

Dear Rep McGuire,
I am writing for your help in amending HB111 to offer fairness in Alaska's telecom market. As you know, ACS has been operating at a loss as a result of being forced by law to lease their facilities to their competitor at below cost . Most people can not fathom how this can happen in America, I am one of them. Competition should be fair and true, HB 111 was amended at one point to reflect fairness. I urge you to investigate the amendments and I believe you will agree that they are logical and fair, not to mention long overdue.
The easy thing to do would be to just extend RCA's life for four years and let them deal with this. The problem, however, is that the RCA is the root cause of the gross unfairness in the telecom industry that we see today. The right thing to do, is give the RCA an extended life only with new rules to operate under, as proposed in the amendments to HB111.
This is a very deep issue and I hope you will educate yourself on the details. Alaskans will be the winners if true and fair competition were to finally come to our state in the telecom industry. Thank you for your time.
Gary Leder Juneau

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Subject: HB 111
Date: Wed, 14 May 2003 10:08:05 -0800
From: ibewjno@ptialaska.net
To: Representative_Norman_Rokeberg@legis.state.ak.us, Representative_Pete_Kott@legis.state.ak.us, Representative_John_Coghill@legis.state.ak.us, Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us, Representative_Carl_Morgan@legis.state.ak.us, Representative_Ethan_Berkowitz@legis.state.ak.us, Representative_Beth_Kerttula@legis.state.ak.us

Dear Rules Chair Rokeberg and Committee Members,

I write this letter to you all today asking for your support of HB111 with the amendment text added back into it that came from Labor and Commerce and was stripped out in House Finance. I am a lifelong Alaskan and Telecom worker for twenty four years in our State. I believe that it is now the time for our Legislature to extend our RCA's life, but more importantly to give it specific guidelines to make it act objectively and fairly to ensure competition in Alaska. These amendments will do just that. If competition is truly going to occur in Alaska these measures must be undertaken to make all competitors for markets and customers play by the same rules.

For too long now our APUC and the current RCA have placed unfair burdens on certain companies while favorably treating entrants into the original company's markets at the original company's expense. How can it possibly be fair for one company to have to build telecommunications infrastructure and lease it to a competitor for amounts that will not allow it to recover the cost of building? How can it be fair for the FCC to recommend accelerated depreciation rates for telecommunications companies and for our RCA to controvert that in their rulings here, thus slowing investment in new infrastructure and services? This is not fair and equitable treatment to all.

I believe that the Legislature is charged with the oversight of the RCA and needs to give it clear direction for the way competition is fairly carried out in Alaska. Again I ask that you support HB111 and add the amendments back into the Bill so that Alaskan consumers can enjoy the benefits of further investment in Alaska by companies providing state of the art services at reasonable prices. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Mike Notar
124 Front St.
Juneau, AK 99801
(907) 586-3050

Subject: Please support House Bill No.111 with the current amendments.
Date: Wed, 14 May 2003 12:39:03 -0800
From: gilbertc@acsalaska.net
To: "Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state

Please support House Bill No.111 with the current amendments.

Section 1. (1) Findings and Purpose. Says the Telecommunications Act of 1996 was enacted to foster the rapid deployment of advanced telecommunications, information technologies, and services Americans by promoting competition and reducing regulation in telecommunications nationwide.

ILEC like ACS have to share it's products and services with CLEC like GCI, this will not encourage companies like ACS to spend on capital projects and improve the rapid deployment of advanced telecommunications to serve Alaskans. This actually discourages companies like ACS to invest on NEW advanced technologies, ACS would have to share this NEW technology service with CLEC's like GCI, and they do not get any money on their return. Companies like GCI do not invest on any capital projects and improve the rapid deployment of advanced telecommunications to serve Alaskans, because they get for below cost with ILEC companies like ACS. Who ends up suffering? The public.

Ask GCI to be the carrier of last resort and they most likely with say they are not interested in that area. So the Carriers of last resort like ACS would be forced to deploy investment and then GCI comes back and wants to enter that area. Not a fair playing field.

Please vote for House Bill No.111with the current amendments.

My wife, my kids and myself thank you for doing this.
Thank you,
Gilbert Carrillo
8301 Majestic Dr
Anchorage AK 99504

Subject: Bill HB 111 With Amendments
Date: Wed, 14 May 2003 14:19:48 -0800
From: "Buttolph, Linda K." <LButtolp@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

You need to Approve Bill HB 111 with ALL AMENDMENTS! For Fair Competition, All Companies need to be on an equal playing field. I have been in the Telecommunications industry for over 21 years and have lived in Alaska for 31 years. I live in your district and request your Help to get this Bill Approved with the Amendments. I also work for ACS. If Bill HB 111 is approved without the Amendments, I feel ACS will not be able to continue Business. How can you find someone to Purchase a Company that can not turn a Profit, because your hands are tied. GCI will not be on the list to Purchase ACS, I can assure you.
The Agreement GCI is working under, was put in place when ATU was owned by the City of Anchorage. ATU did not need to show a Profit. ACS is a privately owned company, just like any other Business. If you did not show a Profit in your Own Business, you surely would not continue.

Competition to me is - Let all Companies place there own infrastructure.

NOW LET'S COMPETE

Sincerely

Linda Buttolph
2001 Shore Dr
Anchorage Alaska 99515

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Subject: HB111 must have amendments
Date: Wed, 14 May 2003 14:41:20 -0800
From: "Varness, Bob (Robert)" <Robert.Varness@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

My name is Bob Varness, I currently work for ACS in Juneau. I've worked Telecommunications in Alaska since 1976. Over the years I've traveled and worked in most all of the Southeast communities and some up North. In the past I've witnessed inefficient operations, procedures and practices that have given most communications monopolies the reputation they currently enjoy today. It's no secret, everyone loves to hate the telephone company. Moving beyond old thinking and beat up payphones, the industry changed a while back but some haven't really noticed. Competitors are still working the public for their not so fond memories and feelings of the past.

I'm proud to say since Alaska Communications Systems has purchased PTI, ATU and FMUS properties, I've seen positive change in all areas of the organizations. Our procedures and operational norms look quite different than a half decade ago. As part of our re-organization efforts, services we once gave away or what was included in the overall cost of doing business is not free anymore, so we must recover costs whenever we can due to reduced revenues from competition, but like all business, this is good business (you know, mean and lean) like everyone else we want to keep our rates competitive and give our customers a service of value. To accomplish these goals were required to charge most of our customers what it costs to do business, there are others we give a good deal to, because were required to do so by the RCA.

I don't understand why the RCA continues to subsidize CLEC's at the ILEC's expense, I don't think its fair to make one companies customers pay for another companies customers, is that realistic? that's happening today. Competition is a good thing, I'm all for it. Why are CLEC's not required to build out the Plant with the Universal Service Funds they receive. It's clear to me their not re-investing in the middle mile and all Alaskans telecommunications future is ultimately on the line. If the Alaskan lawmakers continue to let the RCA operate as they have been, I believe telecommunications in Alaska may suffer more than we all know. The old phone companies and the 900 lb. Gorilla attitude left Alaska 5 years ago, I don't think it's fair to stereotype the other new guy on the block.. ACS.

Thanks
Robert A.

Varness

3819

Killewich Drive

Juneau,

Alaska 99801

789.2433

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Subject: HB 111
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 06:44:03 -0800
From: "Joni" <jonij@arctic.net>
To: <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us>

Dear Ms. McGuire,

The RCA has consistently misinterpreted FCC regulations and manipulated them to bring about a slow death for competition in Alaska's Telephone Services and Internet Services market, as well as placing unfair burden on the Electrical Utilities in this great state. I can see subsidizing a new comers arrival in the market place for a year or two - but long term subsidies at the direct expense of the companies (now one) who spent decades and millions building the copper network that links Alaskans to each other, and to the outside world is not only unfair but should be brought to an end before there are over a thousand families with their bread winners in the unemployment lines!<?xml:namespace prefix = o ns = "urn:schemas-microsoft-com:office:office" />

I have been employed by both Chugach Electric and ACS through my years in Alaska and have seen jobs lost and red ink flow across the ledger pages because of actions by the RCA that are in direct contradiction to the advisements of the FCC that were designed to keep competition healthy and thriving in the lower 48. If the RCA were fair and effective in the regulations they produce and enforce - Alaskans would have a CHOICE about who to buy their technology services from in even the most remote locations. As things stand today - ACS operates the existing network at a loss and can't possibly expand the network or invest in new technology because it is required to serve GCI customers before it's own and at a loss of millions of dollars each year as customers go to GCI so enjoy the preferential treatment by ACS. How can this be fair or "free enterprise"?

I ask you - please reconsider the amendments that have been stripped from House Bill 111 and do NOT approve this bill without adding those amendments. We do not need to give anyone an advantage - we just need to make the playing field LEVEL for everyone! That's what these amendments would do - just make it fair so hard working Alaskans can stay in Alaska to raise their children and watch future generations benefit from wise legislative action taken today.

Thank you for your time.

Joni Johnson

Eagle River Alaska

Subject: House Bill 111
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 07:49:25 -0800
From: ibewjno@ptialaska.net
To: Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us, Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.state.ak.us, Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us, Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us, Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.state.ak.us, Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us, Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.state.ak.us

Dear Judiciary Chair McGuire, Vice-Chair Anderson and Committee Members,

I ask myself what is the main purpose of a corporation or any business? I believe I already know the answer. It is to make money. A novel conclusion and I am impressed with my analytical powers. Then I ask myself again why a certain "competitive" telecommunications corporation in our State would be so concerned for consumers, and willing to spend big money on full-page ads, radio and TV spots, and have an unsuccessful gubernatorial candidate endorse their efforts. It is greed, and their own knowledge that they enjoy unfair advantages in the telecommunications market, coupled with them feeling threatened by the possibility that they may lose these unfair advantages. Another novel conclusion, and again I am impressed with myself for figuring out that all the ads are an attempt to deceive the public. I question how effective they've actually been, but then realize they have at least succeeded in fooling Arliss and AARP with their scary misinformation and Madison Avenue ads.

Then I apply my knowledge of the industry in our State through my own twenty-plus years of experience in it. Having gone through the scary and uncertain times of deregulation in the 1980's, I've now come to the conclusion that there are not any telecommunications monopolies in Alaska anymore. If competition is what was wanted, then now let it truly and fairly begin. The Legislature can extend and give the RCA guidelines in statute that will assure that one company is not favored over another, or have to provide its facilities to the other for under-market and non-recoverable costs. If the RCA is only extended, without the necessary amendments to achieve this, that may well serve to further foster the success of one company and continue the downward spiral of another, resulting in the loss of nearly one thousand good paying jobs across our State. That would be bad public policy in my mind. I urge you to vote HB111 out of your Committee with the amendments added back in that were eliminated in the House Finance Committee. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Mike Notar
124 Front St.
Juneau, AK 99801
(907) 586-3050

Subject: HB 111
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 08:29:30 -0800
From: "Diamond, Barbara" <barbara.diamond@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

Dear Representative McGuire:

I have worked in the Telecommunications industry for twenty years and I find myself in a situation where my company is not allowed to compete.... my job security, retirement, and my future are at stake. Please support HB 111 and all its critical amendments.

ACS should be allowed to compete by the same rules as GCI. For example, ACS should be allowed to bundle together regulated and unregulated services such as local, long distance, Internet and Wireless (the cable monopoly- GCI- has been able to do this for over seven years). I encourage you to support HB 111 and all its critical amendments.

What we have witnessed through full-page ads, radio spots, Internet sites, and political maneuvering is an attempt to maintain a structure, which requires ACS to subsidize its chief competitor, GCI, the cable monopolist. This subsidy takes root in lease rates that are a mere fraction of the true cost ACS has incurred. I encourage you to support HB 111 and all its critical amendments.

Would ACS raise its Local and/or Business Customer Rates by $100 million annually? Of course not. Such action by ACS would drive customers to the competition. ACS would raise its interconnection fees so that GCI was paying a compensatory rate for use of the ACS Network. This is competition at work.

When House Bill 111 as amended passes, Alaskan telecommunications consumers will have real competition for the first time. Competition which allows all service providers to offer their "best" deals because all the competing companies will be operating under the same set of rules on a level playing field.

As a voter in your district, I encourage you to represent my family and myself when you cast your vote on this important legislation. Please support HB 111 and all its critical amendments.

Forcing ACS to subsidize its competitors is not competition. Please vote to support HB 111 and all its critical amendments.

Thank you

Sincerely

Barbara L. Diamond

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Subject: HB111 WITH AMENDMENTS
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 08:37:55 -0800
From: "Rondeau, Jane" <jrondeau@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

I am currently an ACS employee with an insider view of the telecommunications industry within Alaksa.

The competition between ACS and GCI is and has been controlled from the onset. Unlike the GCI commercial spin, it has never been a matter of letting freedom ring.
This restrained, deregulated environment has imposed regulations on ACS that are detrimental to it's survival. First, ACS is forced to lease lines to it's major competitor, GCI, below the cost of maintaining those lines. There is no incentive for ACS to enhance the infrastructure it's losing money on, and there is no incentive for GCI to get off the gravy train. Second, unlike GCI, ACS is restricted from bundling it's products. What this means is that the consumer who calls GCI has the ability to make one phone call, speak to one person, and order numerous products. If placing that order at ACS, the call would be transferred from department to department. Last, the rate of phone line depreciation is slighted in GCI's favor even though the burden of maintaining those lines lies with ACS. Due to legal trappings ACS has lost 50% of the Anchorage market share, and is steadily losing more. ACS can't continue to exist and provide the service that Alaska depends upon unless there is legislative relief. No company can.

What other company would buy into this losing proposition? Will the infrastructure eventually collapse, or be propped up by corporate welfare?

The option of ACS failing doesn't' benefit Anchorage citizens or it's politicians.
In order to counter the downward spiral of the Alaskan communications systems, I urge you to vote yes on HB111, with amendments.

Sincerely,
Jane Rondeau

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Subject: HB111 With Amendments
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 08:39:50 -0800
From: "Ketchum, Judy" <JKETCHUM@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

I have worked here at Alaska Communications System for almost 17 years. I am really concerned that if we don't manage to make the competitive market more fair that ACS will eventually go down and many many layoffs will occur, possibly my job. I have invested a career in this business and am very concerned that is this HB111 with Amendments doesn't pass that what I have invested will be gone. The competition out there is not fair, our competitors can lease facilities cheaper than it costs us to maintain these, that makes it difficult to stay in business very long. In order to have fair competition out there we need to have the HB111 with Amendments to be passed as this will allow our competitors to lease at a price that will be fair in order to stay in business.

Having a government regulators setting all the rules does not do justice to competition, we need the market forces to do this to ensure that all competition is open and fair. Passing this House Bill with Amendments will allow ACS and GCI to complete in a fair business and allow ACS to be able to run our business in a very competitive fashion.

I urge you to please vote on passing this HB111 with Amendments in hopes that it will even out our competition and we can run a business with competitive prices on products, services. Thank you for your time, I will be following carefully and very attentively to what is happening with this HB as this may be my job or a retirement in the future depending on if it passes or not. I support the HB111 with Amendments and I hope I can count on you to pass the HB111 with Amendments so we can enjoy a fair competition market here in Anchorage.

Judy Ketchum
CABS Billing Specialist

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Subject: PLEASE SUPPORT HB 111 WITH AMMENDMENTS
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 08:41:23 -0800
From: "Powell, Laura A." <lpowell@acsalaska.com>
To: "'representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.state.ak.us'" <representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.sta
"'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat
"'Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.sta
"'Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.sta

Dear Honorable Representatives,

> My name is Laura Powell. I am a born and raised Alaskan. For most of my
> life I lived in Homer where there has always been only 1 phone company.
> So, I really want to see fair competition. I believe in it, as I feel it
> benefits the customer and it can also benefit the companies and our state
> to have fair competetion among companies.
>
> I work at ACS so it may seem that I am a little biased. But, I try to
> look at it from a laymans standpoint.
>
> If you can imagine having 2 small town bakers. One has a factory to
> manufacture the pie pans. They also have a full service bakery where they
> bake the pies with ingredients that they purchase. Baker B down the block
> doesn't have a factory or the ovens to make the pans or the pies. But the
> Baking commision tells Baker A that they must lease the pie pans to Baker
> B for less than what Baker A can make them for. But, not only must they
> lease them the pans, they must bake the pies and sell them to Baker B,
> below cost as well. Baker B sells the pies at a cheaper price than Baker
> A can and then when the pie pans get broken or dented they just have Baker
> A's factory repair them, at NO cost to Baker B.
>
> In this sceneric there is NO incentive for Baker B to buy their own
> factory or ovens. Why should they? They are getting a product at a cost
> that is cheaper than it would cost them to make the pies themselves.
>
> Where is the fairness? Where is the competition? Where is the
> regulation? Where is the monopoly? Where does that leave the customer
> when the "supplier" goes out of business and the re-seller doesn't own the
> equipment?
>
> This is a very simplistic way to look at the whole picture, I realize.
> This is how I would explain it to my children, who depend on me to keep my
> job. I am concerned that if HB111 passes without ammendments, that I may
> have to explain to my children why they can't have new clothes for
> school...And not only that, I will be explaining to my family who live in
> Homer, why another service provider in that town will be suffering because
> of "regulations." They already have lost out on other services that the
> rest of the state enjoys....
>
> I urge you to support HB111 WITH ammendments.
>
> It's the fair thing to do. It's the right thing to do, for the companies
> involved, for all the customers involved and for all Alaskans.
> Competition is a great tool, when it is used properly.
>
> Thank you for your time and consideration.
>

> *Laura Powell*
> *564-1466 work*
>
>
>
>
>
>

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Subject: I support HB 111
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 08:43:33 -0800
From: "Johnson, Maydeen R." <maydeen.johnson@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

What the RCA has done to ACS is unfair.

The public is also being mislead, misinformed & deceived by GCI & the media. ACS is a long time alaskan corporation, what are these fellow alaskans doing?

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Subject: HB111
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 12:43:50 -0400
From: "Connie Maze" <cmaze@acsalaska.com>
To: "The Honorable Lesil L. McGuire" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us>

Connie Maze
1506 Wolverine Street
Anchorage, AK 99504

May 15, 2003

The Honorable Lesil L. McGuire
House of Representatives
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative McGuire:

I have worked in the Telecommunications industry for a relatively short time but decided to start a career in this field. Now I find myself in a situation where my job security and retirement, my future, is at stake because the company I work for is not allowed to compete. Please support HB111 and all its critical amendments.

When House Bill 111 as amended passes, Alaskan telecommunications consumers will have real competition for the first time. Competition which allows all service providers to offer their best deals because all the competing companies will be operating under the same set of rules, on a level playing field. For seven years GCI has been allowed to bundle together regulated and unregulated services, such as, local, long distance, Internet and Wireless. ACS has not been allowed to do so. ACS is required to subsidize GCI by lease rates that are a fraction of the true cost ACS incurs. Basically, ACS is forced to give GCI use of our company infrastructure, for the sake of competition, without being allowed to collect proper compensation for that use. This is not competition it's subsidy. Please support HB111 and all its critical amendments.

I have seen TV ads, heard radio ads, by politicians, paid for by GCI, stating that, ACS will raise its rates by $100 million annually if HB111 is passed. This is ridiculous! That would drive our customers to the competition. ACS would raise its interconnection fees so that GCI was paying a compensatory rate for use of the ACS Network. GCI doesn't want to give up their free ride, that they have enjoyed far too long. If the concern is really competition, why has nothing been done to address the monopoly that GCI has in the cable industry.

As a voter, I enccurage you to represent my family and myself when you cast your vote on this important legislation. Please support HB111 and all its critical amendments.

Sincerely,

Connie Maze

Subject: HB 111
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 08:47:28 -0800
From: "Schimmeyer, Brent" <BSchimmeyer@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

hello my name is brent schimmeyer born and raised here in alaska and a constant voter. im just letting you know that i support the HB 111 with amendments and would like to see it go through. it would level the playing field in alaska and force GCI to pay there far share for using the network that ACS builds and maintains

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Subject: HB 111 Yes, support for Amendments
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 08:52:15 -0800
From: "LeNorman, Stacy" <IMCEAEX-_O=ALASKA+20COMMUNICATIONS+20SYSTEMS+2C+2
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

With all due respect,
I support House Bill 111 as amended. I would hope you would support the bill as amended as well.

When this amended bill passes, Alaskan telecommunications consumers will have real competition for the first time. Competition which allows all service providers to offer their 'best' deals because all the competing companies will be operating under the same set of rules on a level playing field.

Please support this amended bill. Thank you,

Stacy LeNorman
410 Kayak Drive
Anchorage, AK 99515
(907) 348-0101

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Subject: Support for HB111 WITH ALL AMENDMENTS
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 08:56:30 -0800
From: "Dunham, Curtis L" <cdunham@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat
"'Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.sta
"'Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.s
"'Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.sta

I have worked in the Telecommunications industry for three years and I find myself in a situation where my company is not allowed to compete, because of unfair regulations by the RCA. My job security, retirement, and my children's future are at stake. Please support HB 111 and all its critical amendments. ACS should be allowed to compete by the same rules as GCI. For example, ACS should be allowed to bundle together regulated and unregulated services such as local, long distance, Internet and Wireless (the cable monopoly- GCI- has been able to do this for over seven years). What we have witnessed through full-page ads, radio spots, Internet sites, and political maneuvering is an attempt to maintain a structure, which requires ACS to subsidize its chief competitor, GCI, the cable monopoly company. If you look at GCI's balance sheet their biggest money looser is their local phone service. They simply drive up the cost of cable TV (over $60 per month now) This subsidy drives down the service to Alaskans because their is no incentive to build or upgrade the infrastructure with lease rates that are a mere fraction of the true cost ACS has incurred. If HB 111 is passed with amendments ACS would raise its interconnection fees so that GCI was paying a fair rate for use of the ACS Network. This is competition at work.

When House Bill 111 as amended passes, Alaskan telecommunications consumers will have real competition for the first time. Competition which allows all service providers to offer their "best" deals because all the competing companies will be operating under the same set of rules on a level playing field. As a voter in your district, I encourage you to represent my family and myself when you cast your vote on this important legislation. Please support HB 111 and all its critical amendments.

Forcing ACS to subsidize its competitors is not competition. Please vote to support HB 111 and all its critical amendments.

Curt Dunham
ACS 4-wire board
Private Line Apprentice
564-5960

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Subject: HB111 with all critical amendments attached
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 08:57:06 -0800
From: "Bivins, Ellen" <ebivins@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

Dear Rep. McGuire,

I am an employee of Alaska Communications Systems and am writing you to ask that you support HB111 with all the critical amendments attached. As an employee of ACS, I have become more aware of the unfair competition between ACS and their competitors, specifically GCI. I have had a growing concern over this, and compare it to my purchasing my groceries at Carr's (representative of ACS), and paying for them at Fred Meyers (representative of the competition).

I understand thr reasons initially for the "subsidized" competition that the U.S. Government set up after breaking up Bell Telephone, however, in Alaska we have a pretty even split of customers between GCI and ACS, with ACS footing the entire expense for plant in the ground, subsidizing GCI for the use of our lines, which they charge their customers, and it is pure profit for them.

I have concerns regarding the continued financial health of the company I work for, and have concerns that the layoffs we have experienced to date will continue, if we do not see changes. I am asking that you support open and fair competition, ensure that we are able to lease our facilities at the real cost of those facilities, removing the unfair competition that currently exists in our state. If the bill passes without the critical amendments attached, it will be business as usual in the telecommunications industry in Alaska, and I fear the health of the company I work for will continue to plummet, and layoffs will increase. The employees of this company only want what is fair, and that is to have HB111 pass with all critical amendments attached.

Thank you for your time.

Ellen Bivins
Sr. Clerical Specialist
Field Services, Central District
564-1112 fax 563-0662
MS#18

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Subject: HB111 with all the amendments
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 09:01:27 -0800
From: "Naylor, Alisha L." <anaylor@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

I am a proud employee of Alaska Communications Systems and am writing you to ask that you support HB111 with all the amendments attached. As an employee of ACS, I have become more aware of the unfair competition between ACS and their competitors, specifically GCI. I have had a growing concern over this, and compare it to my purchasing my groceries at Carr's (representative of ACS), and paying for them at Fred Meyers (representative of the competition).

ACS should be allowed to compete by the same rules as GCI. For example, ACS should be allowed to bundle together regulated and unregulated services such as local, long distance, Internet and Wireless (the cable monopoly- GCI- has been able to do this for over seven years). I encourage you to support HB 111 and all its critical amendments.

What we have witnessed through full-page ads, radio spots, Internet sites, and political maneuvering is an attempt to maintain a structure, which requires ACS to subsidize its chief competitor, GCI, the cable monopolist. This subsidy takes root in lease rates that are a mere fraction of the true cost ACS has incurred. I encourage you to support HB 111 and all its critical amendments.

Would ACS raise its Local and/or Business Customer Rates by $100 million annually? Of course not. Such action by ACS would drive customers to the competition. ACS would raise its interconnection fees so that GCI was paying a compensatory rate for use of the ACS Network. This is competition at work.

When House Bill 111 as amended passes, Alaskan telecommunications consumers will have real competition for the first time. Competition which allows all service providers to offer their "best" deals because all the competing companies will be operating under the same set of rules on a level playing field.

As a voter in your district, I encourage you to represent my family and myself when you cast your vote on this important legislation. Please support HB 111 and all its critical amendments.

Forcing ACS to subsidize its competitors is not competition. Please vote to support HB 111 and all its critical amendments.

Alisha Naylor
564-1640
ACS Marketing

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Subject: Fwd: RCA
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 09:02:35 -0800
From: "Matthew Callahan" <matthewjcallahan@hotmail.com>
To: Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us

Hello, please do everything within your power to eliminate the unfair and unbalanced special treatments that GCI has been receiving from the RCA. *All communications service providors should receive equal treatment.* Under the guise of competition, GCI has persuaded the RCA to require other companies to sell them their services *at below costs* so that GCI can then resell it to customers. This severely undercuts these companies' ability to operate in the black. Fair competion is great, but subsidizing one company at the expense of others it not only obsurd, it is punitive, unfair, and restrictive to those companies and the customers they service. It is hendering new technological development and improvements because it is artificially removing profit/investment dollars from one company and shifting them to GCI. Please consider carefully all the facts when you make your votes on this issue. ***Please pass HB-111 with all critical ammendments***. Thank you, Matthew Callahan

---

Protect your PC - Click here for McAfee.com VirusScan Online

Subject: HB 111
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 09:05:26 -0800
From: "Nutting, Madeline M." <MNutting@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat
"'Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.sta
"'Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.s

Dear Fellow Alaskans,

I am very concerned with the House Bill 111. I am a proud ACS employee since 1999. I am hoping the HB111 passes with the amendments to level the playing field with the GCI competition. I have a long history of customer service in retail sales and in that environment there was competition daily, which is a given, but the vendors we dealt with gave purchasers similar costs/savings on the same product. However if there isn't "Fair competition", a company can suffer terribly! Won't you please allow this House Bill 111 to pass with all the amendments, so ACS can have a FAIR Chance at competition and not suffer any longer with having to lease facilities to GCI below ACS' cost?

I thank you for your attention to this matter!

Madeline Nutting
Customer Service Representative
459-6158

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Subject: HB 111
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 09:05:35 -0800
From: "Lesbo, Pam" <plesbo@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

Hello,
I have worked in the Telecommunications industry for many years and I find myself in a situation where my company is not allowed to compete....my job security, my retirement and my future is at stake. Please, please support HB 111 and all it's critical amendments.

ACS should be allowed to compete by the same rules as GCI. For example, ACS should be allowed to bundle together regulated and unregulated services such as local, long distance, Internet and Wireless (the cable monopoly - GCI - has been able to do this for over seven years). I encourage you to support HB 111 and all it's critical amendments.

What we have witnessed through full-page ads, radio spots, Internet sites and political maneuvering is an attempt to maintain a structure which requires ACS to subsidize it's chief competitor, GCI, the cable monopolist. This subsidy takes root in lease rates that are a mere fraction of the true cost ACS has incurred. I encourage you to support HB 111 and all it's critical amendments.

Would ACS raise it's Local and/or Business Customer Rates by $100 million annually? Of course not. Such action by ACS would drive customers to the competition. ACS would raise it's interconnection fees so that GCI way paying a compensatory rate for use of the ACS Network. This is competition at work.

When House Bill 111 as amended passes, Alaskan telecommunications consumers will have real competition for the first time. Competition which allows all service providers to offer their "best" deals because all the competing companies will be operating under the same set of rules on a level playing field.

As a voter, I encourage you to represent my family and myself when you cast your vote on this important legislation. Please support HB 111 and all it's critical amendments.

Forcing ACS to subsidize it's competitors is not competition. Please vote to support HB 111 and all it's critical amendments.

Thank you,

Pam Lesbo
ACS/End User Billing
564-1713
plesbo@acsalaska.com

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Subject: HB 111
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 09:06:42 -0800
From: "Larsen, Robert" <rlarsen@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat
"'Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.sta
"'Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.sta
"'Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.s

I have lived in Alaska since 1968, when my Father was transferred with Continental Telephone to Manage all Continental properties in the state. His name was Ken Larsen and he was a powerful figure in the communication industry in his day. When he arrived in Alaska the communication industry was in a mess. 14 party lines were not uncommon and prices were out of control. Antiquated equipment dominated the market and one was lucky to be able to call "outside" and talk to friends and family. My Father died last month and left behind his legacy of building one of the most sophisticated networks in the world. But he too, died concerned about the state of the communications industry in Alaska. For too long GCI has been getting away with grand theft. They don't pay for any of the infrastructure yet capitalize on its placement. My Father believed in competition but knew that the word Competition to GCI was merely a marketing plow. My Father was never afraid of a good fight but only if it was a level playing field. He would be writing to you today and asking for you to support HB 111 WITH AMENDMENTS and put all the Utilities on a level playing field if he were still alive. I am writing for him today, no doubt from heaven, and asking that you please bring real competition to Alaska and pass this bill with amendments. I thank you in advance for your time. Bob Larsen

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Subject: [Fwd: HB111 PLEASE VOTE FOR THE AMENDMENTS]
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 09:13:18 -0800
From: Sue Gullufsen <Sue_Gullufsen@legis.state.ak.us>
Organization: Alaska State Legislature
To: Representative Lesil McGuire <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us>

Subject: HB111 PLEASE VOTE FOR THE AMENDMENTS
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 08:57:30 -0800
From: "Blair, Betsy" <bblair@acsalaska.com>
To: "'webmaster@legis.state.ak.us'" <webmaster@legis.state.ak.us>

Dear Lesil McGuire,

I implore you to really listen to the honest people that work at ACS and Chugach Electric and other utilities. I have lived here in Anchorage for 36 years. I am still raising my family of 3 children and not only need to keep my job, but more importantly, the city of Anchorage needs the city to have honest and fair people to run the Regulatory Commission. And as it stands, we are loosing money because it cost a lot more to make and keep the telephone lines than we are being paid. We are no longer the monopoly. Those rules were put in place when everything was deregulated. It was the beginning of a new time and new rules. Things have changed drastically. It is time to level the playing field. And make the rules even for all companies, Equal in competition . That's all we ask. FAIRNESS, HONESTY, AND INTEGREGITY. Please Senator, vote FOR THE AMENDMENT.. We are not special interest. We are being hurt and companies are able to use the extra monies to hurt us more.. There are a lot of people that work in these utilities and we need our jobs just like every one else.. We are not asking for more than we deserve. Fairness is what it is all about.. Thank you so much for your time and attention. I did see you on the news today. I was impressed. I can see you do believe and work hard to make things right, and fair.. I surely appreciate you for daring to believe in WHATS RIGHT. It takes a lot of courage and convection..

Appreciative and Sincerely
Betsy Blair

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Sue Gullufsen
Manager
Legislative Information & Teleconferencing
Legislative Affairs Agency

Subject: Please support the HB 111 with ALL amendments
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 09:21:23 -0800
From: "Reid, Susie" <sreid2@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat
"'Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.sta
"'Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.sta
"'Representative_Ma: _Gruenberg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.s

> The bread and butter of Telecommunications Companies is the front line-
> Customer Service.
>
>
>
> I am a former customer service representative and outside sales
> representative for GCI. My years at GCI were successful. I have a high
> respect for the company and especially for CEO Mr. Ron Duncan.
>
> In 2000 I was offered a position at ACS and accepted. With my experience
> at GCI I have been profoundly horrified in witnessing the relentless ways
> in which GCI has been allowed to operate so unfairly against ACS. My job
> at ACS allows me to witness first hand the GCI accounts that have
> accumulated at a rate that ACS has no chance of any fairness. I have
> emailed and spoken to countless individuals about my findings for over two
> years, regardless of my fears for ACS the accounts for GCI continue to
> build at a phenomenal rate.
>
> I have voiced my most favorable solution for ACS and have expressed it's
> urgency without any success. I am not about to let this company collapse
> without trying every avenue to have competetive fairness finally be
> delivered to ACS.
>
> Having worked at GCI on the front line, customer service, I learned first
> hand of the importance of giving excellent customer service. At GCI I
> heard over and over again from happy customers calling in of how wonderful
> it was to make one call or get one visit and being taken care of by one
> customer service representative. At the time GCI was open on the phones
> 24 hours a day, seven days a week. At GCI when a customer called in I
> could offer and sell all the GCI products which included cable/digital
> te evision, local and long distance phone service, internet service/ cable
> mo em installation, phone cards, cell phone service and promotions. It
> wa a customers delight to have all their questions answered with one
> representative and not having to wait lengthy hold times to be transferred
> from one department to another for each and every product, as is the case
> at ACS. ACS is not allowed, by law, to delight and satisfy the Anchorage
> consumers as GCI does and does with devastating consequences to ACS.
> Bottom line is: The laws need to change. The laws need to include ACS and
> AT&T. The laws need to become what is ethical and enhances the true
> meaning of Fair Competition. GCI is the first company in the United
> States to have created such a successful way of selling
> telecommunications. The ability for GCI to do so while ACS is forced to
> operate as the "old school".. one product, one representative, another
> transfer to another department for a second ACS product, and then a third
> and maybe a forth transfer for a higher monthly fee than GCI is due to the
> result of the current laws. GCI's extravagant advantages in the customer
> service arena and it's results is, in one word, criminal. The current
> laws have lifted GCI as the monopoly, forcing ACS to fail. This will soon
> lead to the devastation of hundreds of employees and their families.

> *There are so many issues like, cost for maintenance and so on that are hurting ACS. I want to focus on what I know first hand that leads GCI to success. GCI's customer service is a powerful telecommunications wheel that rolls thousands and thousands of ACS customers into their web of more affordable products. The products are more affordable because ACS is forced by law to have higher rates than GCI. The powerful tool of cross selling several products by one customer service representative is a consumers dream come true and ACS's nightmare of seeing the results of unfair competition.*
>
> *Please allow competition to begin at ACS's front line, change the laws that are leading to the collapse of ACS, a company that strives for competetive fairness for Alaska.*
>
Please Support the HB 111 with ALL amendments.
>
> *Susie Reid 907-564-1750*
> *Alaska Communications Systems*
> *Revenue Requirements*
>
>
>
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Subject: PLEASE SUPPORT HB111 WITH AMENDMENTS!!!!
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 09:25:52 -0800
From: "Sipin, Annabelle" <ASipin@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat
"'Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.sta
"'Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.sta
"'Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Max_Gruenberg@lelgis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Max_Gruenberg@lelgis.

As a member of the telecommunications industry workforce, I respectfully and strongly encourage you to support HB111 WITH ALL ITS CRITICAL AMENDMENTS. This will allow Alaskan telecommunications consumers the "best" deals because competing companies will be operating under the same set of rules on a level playing field.

Thank you.

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Subject: Support HB 111 "with amendments"
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 09:28:21 -0800
From: "Newlun, Amy S" <ANewlun@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

I am in support of house bill HB 111 "with amendments". Please vote accordingly. Thank you and I hope to continue to support you in the future.

Amy Newlun

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Subject: HB 111
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 13:29:53 -0400
From: "David Kelly" <dgkelly@att.net>
To: "The Honorable Lesil L. McGuire" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us>

David Kelly
3761 Chiniak Bay Drive
Anchorage, AK 99515

May 15, 2003

The Honorable Lesil L. McGuire
House of Representatives
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative McGuire:

My wife Cathy, my son Paul and I all support the passage of HB 0111. We feel it is long overdue. Please push for it's passage.

Thank You,

David Kelly

Sincerely,

David Kelly

Subject: FOR all Amendments Bill Hb 111
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 09:29:57 -0800
From: "Muller, Richard T." <rmuller@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat
"'Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.sta
"'Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.sta
"'Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.s
CC: "'upuha54@ptialaska.net'" <upuha54@ptialaska.net>,
"'richard.muller@acsalaska.net'" <richard.muller@acsalaska.net>

My name is Richard Muller. I have lived in Alaska all my life. I worked in the Telecommunications field for about 7 years now, three years with ACS.

This bill affects my lively hood along with over a thousand other Alaskans. I don't believe the regulations that are in place now are fair and equitable. ACS has lost 50% of the market place in Anchorage. If regulations don't change too even out the playing field so either player has an advantage, there are going to be a lot of people with out jobs and we are going to be back to a monopoly. ACS's hands are tied. Our competitor has the upper hand. It would be like if you owned a piece of commercial property and the mortgage was $3200.00 per mo. Then the government stepped in and ordered you to lease it out at $2500.00 per month. This is simple economics. You are not going to be in business very long.

If you would go to: http://biz.yahoo.com/e/1/g/gncma.html. I am sure you are aware that GCI has raised their cable rates to subsidize their local access.

I remember when there were two newspapers in Anchorage. The price of a newspaper was $.25. Placing newspaper ads was inexpensive. Right after the Times folded the price of the newspapers and ads double due to no competition.

This last Gubernatorial race we were all lied to. Our new Governor told us exactly what we wanted to hear so he would be elected. In the next election I will not be voting for him or his daughter. What he did was wrong. I believe that GCI is on their way to monopolizing the telephone-datacomunications market in Alaska. They are plastering the media with negative ad campaigns. People are being led with a carrot in front of their faces and are not seeing the whole picture. They are being fattened up for the kill. What do you think will happen to the economy in Anchorage with out those jobs? There will be a lot less expendable monies. Businesses will suffer. Real estate will suffer. The economy in Anchorage will come to a grinding halt.

I believe in my Democratic right to vote. I didn't realize how important voting is until I was in my mid 20's. Since then I have not missed voting at an election. I would appreciate your attention and support

Richard Muller
ACS
Voter ID 07361497
Private Line Testing Facilities
264-5960

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Subject: I support House Bill 111 WITH AMENDMENTS
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 09:31:13 -0800
From: "Revilla,Richard" <rrevilla@acsalaska.com>
To: Comm member <Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us>,
Comm member <Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us>,
Comm member <Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.state.ak.us>,
Comm member <Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us>,
Comm member <Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.state.ak.us>,
Comm member <Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.state.ak.us>,
"Comm member (E-mail)" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us>

Committee members,
As a registered voter in Alaska, I urgently petition you to support HB111 with ALL amendments. The regulated environment that exists now has NOT succeeded in creating a fair and level playing field for the respective companies involved. Currently, due to the clear advantage GCI has in this regulated environment, there is no incentive for ACS to introduce and install the latest telecommunication technology available since they would only be supporting the competitions customers. Everybody loses because of this. Let us also not forget that GCI already has monopolized the cable market and is seeking to do the same in the telephone market. This country and this state has always prided itself on being the Land of Equal Opportunity and I feel that to pass HB111 without all of the critical amendments is to not support what this country and state are all about.
Thank you
Richard J. Revilla

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Subject: SUPPORT HB 111 AND ALL ITS CRITICAL AMENDMENTS
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 09:33:46 -0800
From: "Erickson, Becky" <BERICKSO@acsalaska.com>
To: "'representative_lesil_mcguire@legis.state.ak.us'" <representative_lesil_mcguire@legis.state.ak.u
"'representative_tom_anderson@legis.state.ak.us'" <representative_tom_anderson@legis.state.ak
"'representative_dan_ogg@legis.state.ak.us'" <representative_dan_ogg@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'representative_jim_holm@legis.state.ak.us'" <representative_jim_holm@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'representative_ralph_samuels@legis.state.ak.us'" <representative_ralph_samuels@legis.state.ak
"'representative_les_gara@legis.state.ak.us'" <representative_les_gara@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'representative_max_gruenberg@legis.state.ak.us'" <representative_max_gruenberg@legis.state

As a voter, worker, family person in the State Of Alaska, I encourage you to represent my family and myself when you cast your vote on this important legislation. Please Support HB 111 and all its critical amendments.

I have been employed in telecommunications since 1985 (ATU that is now ACS). It is embarrassing to arrive at a GCI customers establishment to install new service or to fix a phone problem and the customer chastises you for being a ACS employee. We explain the situation that ACS owns the service lines and does all the repairs for the lines GCI leases.

If GCI had to design, build and maintain their own property then and only then would Alaskan telecommunications consumers have real competition for the first time. Competition which allows all service providers to offer their "best" deals because all the competing companies will be operating under the same set of rules on a level playing field.

Forcing ACS to subsidize its competitors is not competition. Please support HB 111 and all its critical amendments.

Becky Erickson
ACS OSP Construction & Splicing
564-1056 office
244-0173 cellular

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Subject: HB111 with all critical amendments attached
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 09:35:59 -0800
From: bivins@acsalaska.net
To: Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.state.ak.us, Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us, Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.state.ak.us, Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us, Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us, Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.state.ak.us, Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us

Dear Representatives,

My wife is an employee of Alaska Communications Systems and I am writing you to ask that you support HB111 with all the critical amendments attached. We have become more aware of the unfair and double standard competition between ACS and their competitors, specifically GCI.

I understand the reasons initially for the "subsidized" competition that the U.S. Government set up after breaking up Bell Telephone, however, in Alaska the competition is stiff between GCI and ACS, and because ACS is unable to compete fairly and evenly, we have been unable to provide the kind of service our competitors are allowed to provide. ACS is currently unable to bundle service as their competitor is able to do. The current split of customers is around 50%, and ACS is required to subsidize GCI with the use of their facilities at a reduced price.

I have concerns regarding the continued financial health of the company my wife work for, and have concerns that the layoffs that the company has experienced to date will continue, if we do not see changes. I am asking that you support open and fair competition, ensure that ACS is able to lease their facilities at the real cost of those facilities, removing the unfair competition that currently exists in our state. If the bill passes without the critical amendments attached, it will be business as usual in the telecommunications industry in Alaska, and I fear the health of the company my wife works for will continue to plummet, and layoffs will increase. Our family and the employees of this company only want what is fair, and that is to have HB111 pass with all critical amendments attached.

Thank you for your time.
Gary Bivins

Subject: PLEASE SUPPORT BILL HB 111
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 09:37:16 -0800
From: "Hall, Beverly O." <BHall@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

I have worked for ACS & previous owners for 26 years now. Because my company-ACS is not allowed to compete .. my job and retirement are at stake.
I support bill HB 111 and all its critical amendments .& i ask for your support to get this bill passed .Acs should be allowed to compete by the same rules as our competor-GCI . We should be allowed to bundle together regulated & unregulated services as local service, long distance , internet & wireless, which GCI has been doing for over seven years. they have the monolpy on cable ..
I ask that you SUPPORT HB 111 AND ALL ITS CRITICAL AMENDMENTS , IT IS SO IMPORTANT TO THE FUTURE OF ACS . We are the most highly skilled workforce in the state and we can compete with anyone, if we are given a fair playing field.

PLEASE, PLEASE SUPPORT HB 111 & ALL ITS CRITICAL AMENDMENTS
THANK YOU ....
Beverly Hall

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Subject: Give us a chance! Make it fair... I support HB111 and all its a mendments!
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 09:37:27 -0800
From: "Estep, Pamela" <pestep@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

How about letting ACS develop a cable television customer base and lease GCI equipment for pennies, which would enable us to provide ACS cable television service to OUR customers at a much lower cost of service than GCI could provide? Do you think GCI could stay in the cable business if they had to foot the bill to maintain all the equipment necessary to provide service to their customers AND ours? This is exactly the scenario in regard to the telecom side of our relationship with GCI. They lease our equipment for pennies, which enables them charge their customers less which, of course, brings them more customers for less money!

Pam Estep
ACS Payroll
907.564.1552

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Subject: HB 111
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 09:37:33 -0800
From: "Wilke, Patrick" <Pat.Wilke@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

Dear Representative Lesil McGuire

I have worked in the Telecommunications industry for many years and I find myself in a situation where my company is not allowed to compete.... my job security, retirement, and my children's future are at stake. Please support HB 111 and all its critical amendments.

ACS should be allowed to compete by the same rules as GCI. For example, ACS should be allowed to bundle together regulated and unregulated services such as local, long distance, Internet and Wireless (the cable monopoly- GCI- has been able to do this for over seven years). I encourage you to support HB 111 and all its critical amendments.

What we have witnessed through full-page ads, radio spots, Internet sites, and political maneuvering is an attempt to maintain a structure, which requires ACS to subsidize its chief competitor, GCI, the cable monopolist. This subsidy takes root in lease rates that are a mere fraction of the true cost ACS has incurred. I encourage you to support HB 111 and all its critical amendments.

Would ACS raise its Local and/or Business Customer Rates by $100 million annually? Of course not. Such action by ACS would drive customers to the competition. ACS would raise its interconnection fees so that GCI was paying a compensatory rate for use of the ACS Network. This is competition at work.

When House Bill 111 as amended passes, Alaskan telecommunications consumers will have real competition for the first time. Competition which allows all service providers to offer their "best" deals because all the competing companies will be operating under the same set of rules on a level playing field.

As a voter in your district, I encourage you to represent my family and myself when you cast your vote on this important legislation. Please support HB 111 and all its critical amendments.

Forcing ACS to subsidize its competitors is not competition. Please vote to support HB 111 and all its critical amendments.

Patrick Wilke

Engineer

ACS Wireless & Messaging

600 Telephone Ave. MS#28

Anchorage, Ak 99503

pat.wilke@acsalaska.com

Ofc: 907.564.8012

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Subject: HB111 With Amendments
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 09:38:12 -0800
From: "Ketchum, Judy" <JKETCHUM@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat
"'Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.sta
"'Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.sta
"'Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.st

I have worked here at Alaska Communications Systems for 17 years. I have seen several changes take place in the telecommunications field. I find myself in a situation where my company isn't allowed to compete in a fair market and that my job, retirement, and children's future are at stake. I am hoping that I can get your support on HB111 with the critical amendments to ensure that we have a fair competitive market in telecommunication to work with now. It is imperative that this HB111 with the amendments passes to keep competition out there in the market fair for everyone.

ACS is NOT going to raise rates to the Local or Business Customers as such action like this would cause our customers to go to the competition where there is a more reasonable rate. This passing HB111 with the Amendments will help us to raise the interconnection fees so that GCI or any other competitor out in the market would pay compensatory rates for the use of the ACS Network. I feel like this would keep the competition in the playing field and not allow it to get so one sided. Forcing ACS to subsidize its competitors is not competition.

If you support and pass the HB111 with all the critical amendments attached it, it will finally allow ACS to bundle some of the packages as GCI does now, to allow our customers that are loyal to us and new customers that we obtain, to be able to receive special package offers. We can give them the same service that GCI has been able to give for the last seven years.

As a voter in your district, I hope to encourage you to represent my family and myself as you are casting your vote on the HB111 with the amendments.

Please Support HB111 And Its Critical Amendments

Judy Ketchum
CABS Billing Specialist

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Subject: HB111
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 09:38:45 -0800
From: "Dicaprio, Wendy" <WDICAPRI@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

Please support this bill with all its critical amendments.
I have worked in telecommunications industry for 28 years and firmly believe that ACS should be allowed to compete by the same rules as GCI. For example, ACS should be allowed to bundle together regulated and unregulated services such as local, long distance, Internet and Wireless (the cable monopoly- GCI- has been able to do this for over seven years).

What we have witnessed through full-page ads, radio spots, Internet sites, and political maneuvering is an attempt to maintain a structure, which requires ACS to subsidize its chief competitor, GCI, the cable monopolist. This subsidy takes root in lease rates that are a mere fraction of the true cost ACS has incurred.

GCI is constantly complaining that these amendments will cause telephone rates to skyrocket. They are the ones who might have to raise rates when they have to start paying ACS a fair price for the facilities they are using.

When House Bill 111 (as amended) passes, Alaskan telecommunications consumers will have real competition for the first time. Competition which allows all service providers to offer their "best" deals because all the competing companies will be operating under the same set of rules on a level playing field.

Sincerely,
Wendy DiCaprio

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Subject: HB111
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 09:42:10 -0800
From: "Urias, Richard G." <RUrias@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

Dear Representative McGuire

I am a 32 year resident and voter from Sitka. I am married and have 5 children, 4 of whom were born and raised in Sitka. I am also a 27 year employee of the local telephone company ACS. The passage of HB 111 without the critical amendments will continue to cripple the company I work for in the competitive telephone market. Although Sitka and most other communities in Southeast have not been affected by the introduction of competition in the local phone market I have seen first hand how it has affected the building and maintaining of the infrastructure critical to providing the quality and state of the art phone service that our state enjoys. The loss of revenue from services that are given to our competition at rates that are far below what it costs for us to maintain is not what competition is all about. If the RCA is to continue along its present course I fear for the jobs of my co-workers both here in Sitka and all over the state of Alaska. Again I urge you to support HB111 and critical amendments attached so that the incumbent local service provider can be free to compete in the telephone market. ACS must be able to market its products without the regulatory confines that are not placed on our competition.
Thanks for your time.
Sincerely
Richard Urias
511 Verstovia
Sitka, Alaska 99835

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Subject: Please support HB111 with amendments, here why:
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 09:42:25 -0800
From: "Anderson, N. (Keith)" <keith.anderson@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat
"'Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.sta
"'Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.sta
"'Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.s

Dear Honored House Judiciary Committee members:

I'll admit I don't usually take the time to write or contact you when an issue sparks controversy or indirectly affects me so it's with a sense of shameless self-preservation that I write to you today. To start with, I'm an ACS employee represented by the IBEW so I'm used to the ground being shaky with all the buyouts and cutbacks the company has gone through over the last 5 years. I started with MUS in Fairbanks, then it became PTI, then Centurytel and then of course, ACS which really amounted to a merger with ATU. With each change in ownership, management and corporate culture, there was plenty of uncertainty concerning my job and my future but it pales in comparison to the uncertainty we employees of ACS now face if HB111 passes without the amendments which apply to fair competition in the Alaska telecommunications market. ACS is being forced to subsidize GCI by having to lease our network to them below cost and that is driving this company toward bankruptcy. When they take out full page ads saying we want the bill to pass so that we can raise the rates, how many customers do think we'd keep? We only want to be able to raise the rate of the lines we lease to GCI or other CLECs to offset the cost it takes to maintain and improve upon the network we have. If it gets worse, and it will if this bill as amended does not go through, we may be looking at another round of layoffs affecting a significant number of Alaskan families (there's about 1150 of us at this point.) If ACS does go to bankruptcy, that puts the union in jeopardy as well. All labor contracts could go to renegotiation or be thrown out the window completely. As HB111 and the amendments we need to survive come across your desk for consideration please think about the effects this vital piece of legislation will have on the lives, jobs and livelihood of your constituency. I'm all for competition, ACS is even on the record requesting it when we had a majority of the market, it just seems that the cost of doing business should be taken into consideration when the RCA or APUC tells us what the rates have to be. As it is now, the set pricing is not a fair price in ACS employees will have to bear that cost in loss of jobs, income and whatever comes with that. Let's say ACS has a lemonade stand: ACS has built the counter and bought sugar, lemons, cups and even ice. Let's say the total outlay was $5 and we can make 5 gallons so it costs $1 a gallon total. We sell our lemonade for 25 cents a cup. Along comes GCI and they set up a stand nearby and they get the Lemonade Commission to say that ACS has to sell lemons, cups and ice to GCI at a cut rate price so that they too can compete in the lemonade market because apparently, ACS has all the sugar, lemons, cups and ice. So ACS has to sell our materials to GCI for say $2.00 then that leave ACS with $3.00 worth of materials and we're left to compete with GCI and this arrangement while they sell their lemonade for 15 cents a cup. So, we're left with a situation where GCI is both getting their lemonade supplies for way under cost so this gives them low enough overhead to charge less for their lemonade thus swaying customers that don't want to pay 25 cents when they could pay 15 cents so at every step in this process, ACS is making less and less money and it's to the point where ACS can't afford sugar, lemons and cups anymore. Does this really make sense? I just want to conclude by asking that you rate this situation in your mind on scale of fairness from 1 to 10. If it's fair by all means, give it a 10 and vote HB111 as is. If you can see any part of this scenario that places an iota of

doubt that the playing field is level and all is fair in the lemonade market of Alaska then rating a 9 or below should prompt you to vote your conscience and allow HB111 to be amended to provide fair competition in the telecommunications market of Alaska. Otherwise the moral to this story will be "when life gives you lemons, you can't always make lemonade, you have to sell them to another guy so he can make lemonade cheaper than you and put you out of business." Don't let this happen. The futures of too many telecommunication industry workers are in your hands in this matter as well as the integrity of the network and services we help maintain and provide to our communities will dwindle and the negative impact on Alaska's already-enfeebled economy will be felt. I appreciate you taking the time to read this and weigh the fairness of HB111 as written versus the amendments that will allow the industry to grow and allow mutual co-existence between the competing companies and a choice for consumers without giving one company such an over-whelming advantage over the other. Please vote for HB111 with proposed amendments.

Thank you,

N. Keith Anderson

PC Support Technician at ACS

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Subject: HB 111
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 13:45:24 -0400 (EDT)
From: "Pat McGraw" <p.mcgraw@excite.com>

I have worked in Communications my whole life. I find my job security threatened by the unfair competition of GCI. ACS should not be required to subsidize its competition. This truly discourages growth and investment in new technologies. In the last few years I have seen this first hand. If we truly want Alaska to have the best of the new technologies it will take investing in the future. It cannot be done when there is no margin for profit. Please support HB 111 and ALL the critical amendments.

Sincerely,
Neil P. McGraw

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Subject: **HB111**
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 09:46:03 -0800
From: "Jackie Endsley" <jendsley@Ibew1547.org>
To: <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us>,
<Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.state.ak.us>,
<Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us>, <Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us>,
<Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.state.ak.us>,
<Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us>,
<Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.state.ak.us>

To the Legislature,

I am in favor of House Bill 111 WITH AMENDMENTS. I truly believe there is NOT a level playing field in regard to the competition between ACS and GCI and I believe this bill help to alleviate this problem.

Jackie Endsley
18028 Sanctuary Drive
Eagle River, AK 99577
(907) 694-9109 home
(907) 777-7257 work

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Subject: Please support HB111 and amendments.
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 09:47:45 -0800
From: "Hollenbeck, Steve" <SHollenb@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat
"'Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.sta
"'Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.s

>
>
> *Dear Sir:*
> *The RCA has unfairly given every advantage it can to GCI and that is*
> *breaking the back of ACS. I am sure every consumer could care less if ACS*
> *goes broke just as long as they get cheap dial tone. ACS work force has*
> *been reduced from around 2000 employee's in 1988 to 1125 today and that is*
> *still not enough for ACS to be profitable, (look at the stock price).*
> *That's a lot of good paying jobs lost, tax payers and voters. In this*
> *environment ACS does not have enough money nor has enough personnel to*
> *expand our telephone facilities for new growth, especially with GCI with*
> *their low interconnection fees waiting to take the customer after our*
> *investment has been made. Let's make the playing field level.*
> *As of this time our company has not taken the fight to the public as GCI*
> *has, so I am doing my part for you to understand our needs. Feel free to*
> *contact me if you would like to discuss this issue from an ACS employee*
> *point of view.*
> *Let's make the playing field level, please support HB111 and all it's*
> *critical amendments. Thank You*
>
> *Steve Hollenbeck*
> *OSP Engineer II*
> *ACS communications*
> *tel: 907-459-6474*
> *fax: 907-459-6460*
> *e-mail: shollenb@acsalaska.com*
>
>
>

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Subject: HB111 With Amendments
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 09:52:36 -0800
From: "Herman, Victoria" <VHerman@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

I was born and raised in Fairbanks, Alaska. My family has lived and worked in this great State for over sixty years.
I am a single mother raising an eight year old daughter by myself. I currently work in the Telecommunications industry, and I find myself in a situation where my company is not allowed to compete.... my job security, retirement, and my child's future are at stake.

ACS should be allowed to compete by the same rules as GCI. For example, ACS should be allowed to bundle together regulated and unregulated services such as local, long distance, Internet, and Wireless (the cable monopoly- GCI- has been able to do this for over seven years). What we have witnessed through full-page ads, radio spots, Internet sites, and political maneuvering, is an attempt to maintain a structure which requires ACS to subsidize its chief competitor, GCI, the cable monopolist. This subsidy takes root in lease rates that are a mere fraction of the true cost ACS has incurred.

We are not afraid of competition. We are the most highly skilled workforce in the state and we can compete with anyone, just give us a fair playing field. Forcing ACS to subsidize its competitors is not competition. As a voter in your district, I encourage you to represent my family and myself when you cast your vote on this important legislation. Please support HB 111 and all its critical amendments.

<><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><>
Victoria Herman
Alaska Communications Systems
Customer Service
<><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><>
<<...OLE_Obj...>>
"A people that values its privileges above its principles soon loses both."
- Dwight D. Eisenhower (1890-1969), Inaugural Address, January 20, 1953

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Subject: PLEASE SUPPORT THE HB111 AMENDMENTS
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 09:53:27 -0800
From: "Brown, Tana" <tbrown@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

I AM IN SUPPORT OF THE HB111 AMENDMENTS AND HOPE THAT YOU CAMPAIGN TO HAVE THIS AMENDMENT PASSED. I AM AN ALASKAN VOTER AND RESIDE IN ANCHORAGE. AS A US CITIZEN I BELIEVE IN EQUAL AND FAIR COMPETITION FOR ALL. WITHOUT THIS AMENDMENT BEING PASSED THERE IS NOTHING EQUAL AND FAIR WITH THE WAY THINGS ARE DONE NOW. WHILE GCI IS ABLE TO GIVE $3,000.00 BONUSES TO THEIR EMPLOYEES, ACS IS BEING BEATEN INTO THE GROUND IN EVERY WAY IMAGINABLE.

THANK YOU

TANA BROWN

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Subject: SUPPORT HB111 WITH ALL AMENDMENTS
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 13:55:10 -0400
From: "Karel Shaw" <karel@acsalaska.net>
To: "The Honorable Lesil L. McGuire" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us>

Karel Shaw
2334 Marian Bay Cir
Anchorage, AK 99515

May 15, 2003

The Honorable Lesil L. McGuire
House of Representatives
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative McGuire:

SCENARIO:

I have a first class shoe store called Happy Feet for 80 years.

Federal law says, oh no, you have a monopoly.

You must offer competition, and oh by the way, you need to make room in your store for BOBO Marcus to come in and sell your shoes. They can also buy your shoes at below cost & sell them to the public cheaper.

And oh by the way, if you want to have a sale you need to file for an OK. In the meantime, since BOBO can do what they want (because BOBO needs no OK's from anyone), they've already had the sale and sold at below cost ALL my shoes!!

And oh by the way, they can have access to your cash register & customer data base but you need to pay for the building, the utilities, the buyers and any new inventory.

And oh by the way, BOBO can accelerate their depreciation over 12 years but HAPPY needs to depreciate over 30 years.

LUDICROUS, STUPID, RIDICULOUS you bet it is!!!!!!!!!!!!

But exactly the way RCA treats ACS.

FAIR COMPETITION.....NOT REGULATION

PLEASE SUPPORT HB 111 WITH ALL AMENDMENTS

KAREL SHAW
2334 MARIAN BAY CIR
ANCHORAGE, AK 99515
907-522-5251

Sincerely,

Karel Shaw

Subject: Support HB 111 with amendments
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 10:08:04 -0800
From: "Powell, Justin C." <jpowell@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

I have worked in the Telecommunications industry for several years and I find the current situation to be in a downward spiral. The current regulations attempting to promote competition are destroying the infrastructures they are supposed to be creating. Instead of building new facilities and upgrading services the ILEC, ACS is afraid to spend their capital. There is no guarantee that ACS will ever get a return on their investment if GCI can simply do as they please in leasing these lines at a substantially reduced rate. GCI has even less incentive to invest in the infrastructure if they can make ACS maintain and install all their facilities then simply sit back and collect their money.

To have fair competition both sides should play by the same rules. There is no reason that GCI should get special treatment by the RCA. They continue to badmouth ACS about being a monopoly that only wants to raise rates, while they themselves are the largest monopoly cable provider in Alaska. I'd like to see the RCA regulate cable TV prices and let ACS lease GCI's cable network and see what happens. If GCI truly wants competition and not just a subsidy than lets pass HB 111 with all its essential amendments and let competition begin to work.

Justin Powell
Fairbanks, Alaska
(907)479-1214

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To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Rachael E Herman-Timmons and I'm an ACS Employee. I have been here in Fairbanks, Alaska for 28 years, born and raised. My experience with ACS has been the greatest working experience I have ever had. I'm worried that with the unreasonable control over ACS by the RCA my job security is at stake. I can't see how ACS can survive when other competitors are not paying their fair share to use the network ACS builds and maintains.

When House Bill 111 passes Alaskans will have real competition for the first time. Competition which allows all service providers to offer their "best" deals because all competing companies will be operating under the same set of rules.

As a supporter I ask you to represent my family and myself when you cast your vote on this important legislation. Please support HB 111 and all its vital amendments.

Thank you for your time in this matter.

Rachael E Herman-Timmons
Customer Service Representative

Subject: Please support HB 111 and all of its critical amendments
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 10:23:35 -0800
From: "Rasmussen, Philene M." <PRasmuss@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

I came to ACS in July of 1999. By taking this job I was able continue to live in my home town which I love dearly. Alaska is the kind of State that makes you feel secure and a place that I am proud to raise my family. Before I started working for ACS I had no idea of the kind of competition between the phone companies in Alaska. Or what incumbent and CLEC meant. After working for ACS over the past year I have become very familiar with what goes on behind the scenes that our average customer does not know. GCI might be the CLEC in Alaska, but they are fairly big out side of the Alaska. ACS is owned and ran in Alaska. If you were to look behind our logo you would see a sticker that said made in Alaska. You can't find that in GCI. I hear the question brought up all the time "how can we help Fairbanks and Alaska continue to grow" I have the answer, by having companies such as ACS. ACS is not just a company that only cares about making money, like some of our competitors. ACS is also a tight nit family orientated company. That supports it's employee & offers great benefits. The kind of benefits that help us stay in Alaska which is becoming more and more expensive to live in each year. Please don't get me wrong competition is also good, but only when it's fair. For years ACS has suffered for being the incumbent phone provider. With unfair rulings. This question keep coming up in my head. Why does ACS a company that supports Alaskan jobs & families continue to be punished. I strongly feel if the support for HB 111 and it's amendments don't happen, it will begin to cripple ACS. Is this the kind of statement our Legislator wants to project. That we should all bend over back wards to help companies like GCI and continue to get them the upper hand? What do they really give back to Alaska?? I know that ACS keeps jobs in Alaska which in the long run continues the flow of money back into our State. I truly think that if we don't start making amendments to some of the bills that will allow fair compaction it will jeopardize my job security and other ACS employees. Which in the long run will hurt our children more. I don't want to see that happen. I would like nothing more than to continue to live in Alaska. And know that when my children are grown, they also will have the chance to make Alaska their permanent home. Thank you for your time in reading my email and please truly look at what the cost would be if no amendments were to be made. Alaska can only remain strong if job jobs are available to the people.

Thank you
Philene Rasmussem

<<...OLE_Obj...>>

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Subject: Please support HB111 with Amended proposal by Tim Anderson
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 10:20:09 -0800
From: gilbertc@acsalaska.net
To: "Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state
CC: "Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us" <Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us>

When Arliss Sturgulewski on a GCI ad., saying about special interest groups. Who are the special interests group here Arliss? Arliss is saying something that most people don't know what she is saying here. GCI don't have to phone cable lines and they are paying less than other for the use of that cable.

ACS has to share its products and services with competing companies like GCI, and this will encourage companies like ACS to spend on capital projects to improve advanced deployment of advanced telecommunications equipment to service Alaskans. This actually discourages companies like ACS to invest on NEW advanced telecommunications equipment to service Alaskans because ACS would have to share this NEW technology with competing companies like GCI, AT&T and TelAlaska and ACS would not a good return on their investment. Companies like GCI, do not have to invest on any capital projects and advanced telecommunications equipment to service Alaskans because they can get it from ACS for below cost. So why should ACS invest on anything. Your in business to make money, not share investments. Who ends up suffering? We Alaskans, the public.

Please support HB111 with Amended proposal by Tim Anderson

Gilbert Carrillo
8301 Majestic Dr
Anchorage, Ak 99504

Subject: HB111 and SB72
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 10:37:23 -0800
From: "Starett, Cindy" <CSTARETT@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat
"'Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.sta
"'Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.sta
"'Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.s

I have worked in the Telecommunications industry for several years and I find myself in a situation where my company is not allowed to compete.... my job security, retirement, and my children's future are at stake. Please support HB 111 and SB 72 and all its critical amendments.

ACS should be allowed to compete by the same rules as GCI. For example, ACS should be allowed to bundle together regulated and unregulated services such as local, long distance, Internet and Wireless (the cable monopoly- GCI- has been able to do this for over seven years). What we have witnessed through full-page ads, radio spots, Internet sites, and political maneuvering is an attempt to maintain a structure, which requires ACS to subsidize its chief competitor, GCI, the cable monopolist. This subsidy takes root in lease rates that are a mere fraction of the true cost ACS has incurred. Would ACS raise its Local and/or Business Customer Rates by $100 million annually? Of course not. Such action by ACS would drive customers to the competition. ACS would raise its interconnection fees so that GCI was paying a compensatory rate for use of the ACS Network. This is competition at work.

When House Bill 111 as amended passes, Alaskan telecommunications consumers will have real competition for the first time. Competition which allows all service providers to offer their "best" deals because all the competing companies will be operating under the same set of rules on a level playing field.

Forcing ACS to subsidize its competitors is not competition. Please vote to support HB 111 and all its critical amendments.

Cindy Starett
1918 North Salem Loop
Anchorage Alaska 99508
907-561-8539

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Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 10:37:23 -0800
From: "Starett, Cindy" <CSTARETT@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat
"'Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.sta
"'Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.sta
"'Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.s

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Subject: AMENDMENT HB-111
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 10:38:57 -0800
From: "Walton, Vanessa" <VWalton@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

I'm asking you to back this amendment. I am an employee of ACS and if this fails alot of people could be out of jobs. I am a long time Alaskan, single parent. Thank you for your consideration.

Thanks
Vanessa Walton

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Subject: HB 111 (WITH AMENDMENTS)
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 10:40:15 -0800
From: "Liebe, Brooke E" <Bliebe@acsalaska.com>
To: "'representative_lesil_mcguire@legis.state.ak.us'" <representative_lesil_mcguire@legis.state.ak.u

May 15, 2003

Dear House Representative Lesil McGuire,

I have been an employee of ACS for 2 years now, I am 22 years old and I plan to stay with this company until I am able to retire. If you do the calculations you will clearly see that I still have many, many years ahead of me before that day will come. Unfortunately my dreams of having job security, a retirement to look forward to and an income to support my family are all at stake right now because the company that I work for is not being opted a fair chance to compete. Please support HB 111 with amendments.

It is impossible for ACS to survive as a company when GCI is operating under a completely different set of rules. ACS cannot compete with a company that is able to bundle together regulated and unregulated services thus offering lower prices to their customers. Due to this, ACS customers are none other than driven to the competition for this very reason. All that ACS asks is that GCI pay a compensated rate for use of the ACS network. This would be equal competition to both companies.

When House Bill 111 as amended passes, the consumers of ACS will finally have real competition for the first time. Competition which allows all service providers to offer their "best" deals because all the competing companies will be in operation under the same set of rules on a level playing field.

I am a registered voter here in Alaska and I strongly urge you to represent my family and myself when you cast your vote on this so very important legislation.
Forcing ACS to subsidize its competitors is not competition. Please support HB 111 and all its critical amendments.

Sincerely,

Brooke E. Liebe

bliebe@acsalaska.com

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Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 10:40:15 -0800
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To: "'representative_lesil_mcguire@legis.state.ak.us'" <representative_lesil_mcguire@legis.state.ak.u

May 15, 2003

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When House Bill 111 as amended passes, the consumers of ACS will finally have real competition for the first time. Competition which allows all service providers to offer their "best" deals because all the competing companies will be in operation under the same set of rules on a level playing field.

I am a registered voter here in Alaska and I strongly urge you to represent my family and myself when you cast your vote on this so very important legislation.
Forcing ACS to subsidize its competitors is not competition. Please support HB 111 and all its critical amendments.

Sincerely,

Brooke E. Liebe

bliebe@acsalaska.com

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Subject: HB111
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 10:41:02 -0800
From: "Lewis, Lori" <Lori.Lewis@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

I have worked in the Telecommunications industry for many years and I find myself in a situation where my company is not allowed to compete.... my job security, retirement, and my children's future are at stake. ACS should be allowed to compete by the same rules as GCI. For example, ACS should be allowed to bundle together regulated and unregulated services such as local, long distance, Internet and Wireless. GCI- has been able to do this for over seven years.

When House Bill 111 as amended passes, Alaskan telecommunications consumers will have real competition for the first time. Competition which allows all service providers to offer their "best" deals because all the competing companies will be operating under the same set of rules on a level playing field.

Forcing ACS to subsidize its competitors is not competition. Please vote to support HB 111 and all its critical amendments.

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Subject: HB111 with amendments
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 10:40:41 -0800
From: "Inskeep, Sherry" <sinskeep@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

I have worked in the Telecommunications industry for many years and I find myself in a situation where my company is not allowed to compete.... my job security, retirement, and my children's future are at stake. Please support HB 111 and all its critical amendments.

ACS should be allowed to compete by the same rules as GCI. For example, ACS should be allowed to bundle together regulated and unregulated services such as local, long distance, Internet and Wireless (the cable monopoly GCI- has been able to do this for over seven years). I encourage you to support HB 111 and all its critical amendments.

What we have witnessed through full-page ads, radio spots, Internet sites, and political maneuvering is an attempt to maintain a structure, which requires ACS to subsidize its chief competitor, GCI, the cable monopolist. This subsidy takes root in lease rates that are a mere fraction of the true cost ACS has incurred. I encourage you to support HB 111 and all its critical amendments.

Would ACS raise its Local and/or Business Customer Rates by $100 million annually? Of course not. Such action by ACS would drive customers to the competition. ACS would raise its interconnection fees so that GCI was paying a compensatory rate for use of the ACS Network. This is competition at work.

When House Bill 111 as amended passes, Alaskan telecommunications consumers will have real competition for the first time. Competition which allows all service providers to offer their "best" deals because all the competing companies will be operating under the same set of rules on a level playing field.

Thank you very much for your time
Sherry Inskeep

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Subject: HB 111 WITH AMENDMENTS
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 10:47:49 -0800
From: "Reese, Donna" <DReese@acsalaska.com>

Please SUPPORT HB 111 WITH AMENDMENTS.

I encourage you to represent me, my family, and my friends when you cast your vote on HB111. I urge you to SUPPORT HB111 along with the original critical amendments.

I am for FAIR competition for Alaska telecommunications companies; however feel very strongly that ACS has not received this fair treatment by the RCA. I have worked in the telecommunications industry for the past 13 years and have seen many changes, both good and bad. One of the saddest most unfair change I have watched materialize over the past years are the unfair rulings by the RCA which regulates stringent restrictive rulings over ACS but not to GCI. Thus, ACS has been seriously handicapped in being able to compete and offer our customers more competitive services and prices which GCI continues to be able to enjoy, and to offer our local communities.

In the past years, ACS staff, our families, and our friends have witnessed through full-page ads, radio spots, internet sites, and political arenas an attempt to maintain a structure, which requires ACS to subsidize its chief competitor... GCI. GCI who truly is the cable monopolist. This subsidy takes root in lease rates that are a mere fraction of the true cost that ACS has incurred.

Again, I urge you to SUPPORT HB111 along WITH AMENDMENTS. By doing so, you will be supporting hundreds of local Alaskans and their families by not only helping to guarantee our job security, but also by truly allowing for fair competition within Alaska. Thank you for your support.

Donna Reese
2297 Outside Blvd.
North Pole, Alaska 99705
907-488-3721 HM
907-459-6461 WK
>
>
>
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Subject: support HB111 with amendments
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 10:45:52 -0800
From: "Merry, Heather" <Heather.Merry@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

As a worker in the telecommunications industry, I am concerned with the issue of the RCA and the possibility of not passing HB111 with amendments. When ACS is required to lease its facilities at a fraction of the cost to maintain them, competition does not exist. When the RCA requires ACS to build new facilities to maintain GCI lines, how can ACS compete? The cost is falling on ACS, rather than the users of the facilities, GCI. ACS should be allowed to compete and function by the same rules as GCI. When House Bill 111 as amended passes, Alaskan telecommunications consumers will have real competition for the first time. Competition which allows all service providers to offer their "best" deals because all the competing companies will be operating under the same set of rules on a level playing field. For the sake of jobs, work ethics, and industry competition (if the RCA would allow fair competition) the Alaskan industry could only benefit from passing HB111 and all of its amendments.
My family's livelihood depends on passing HB111 with amendments as written. My husband and I are both in the telecommunications industry and if the bill does not pass, it could affect our well being drastically.
Forcing ACS to subsidize its competitors is not competition.
I encourage you to represent my family and myself when you cast your vote on this important legislation. Please support HB111 and all its critical amendments.

Heather Merry
Alaska Communications Systems
600 Telephone Ave
Anchorage, AK 99503
hmerry@acsalaska.com
907-564-1001
907-564-1678 fax

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Subject: HB111 with Amendments
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 10:59:05 -0800
From: "Morris, Dennis L" <DMORRIS@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

I have lived in Alaska for 44 years and have been in the telecommunications industry for over 28 years and would like to take a little of your time to let you know how I feel about HB111. I would like to let you know that I believe this bill with all the existing amendments is crucial for this state to build a modern and viable telecommunications network. GCI has been treated like something special since the day they started to compete with Alascom in the long distance market. We need to have fair competition, not one company making its profits to the determent of another. GCI is attempting to put a spin on this in the newspaper and radio that we shouldn't bow to last minute "special interest" amendments. GCI and their push to kill the amendments is to only real "special interest" in this mess and confirms this with the untold thousands of dollars spent on their add campaigns. GCI is the only monopoly left in this state with their cable company.

The ILEC is only asking to be given the same rules that GCI is working under. Some examples are:

1. GCI is able to depreciate their investment over 12 years; ACS is forced to use 30 years.
2. GCI can bundle all of their services together any way they want, ACS can not bundle regulated and deregulated items and need to get a tariff approved which GCI usually fights.
3. When GCI gets a line they are allowed to get the REA subsidy when they do nothing in the way of installing or maintaining cable facilities to serve the customer. This is sure way to destroy to benefits of universal service in areas of high cost.

I appreciate your time and I and my family who's livelihood depends on the outcome of this bill will be watching how this bill progresses.

Thanks for your time,

Dennis Morris
Alaska Communication Systems
Acting SWC Foreman
907-564-1906

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Subject: FW: HB 111
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 11:07:26 -0800
From: "Rossback, Jewell G." <JRossbac@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

> *My husband and I have been employed by ATU, PTI and ACS for at least*
> *25 years. Being in the communication business for this many years, we*
> *have seen so many changes, some that are healthy and some that are not.*
>
> *We believe that ACS should be allowed to compete by the same rules*
> *as GCI. For example, ACS should be allowed to bundle together regulated*
> *and unregulated services such as local, long distance, Internet and*
> *Wireless. GCI has been doing this for many years.*
> *Everywhere we turn, the news media is always against the incumbent.*
> *They help fuel the communications problems. Where is it fair that we*
> *should lease our equipment to GCI and they not have to pay what it costs*
> *to support it? Is it that our Representatives want to see the failure of*
> *competition or bankrupt one company where there will be no competition*
> *anymore??*
> *When House Bill 111 as amended passes, there will be real*
> *competition for the first time. This will allow service providers to*
> *offer their best deals because all the competing companies will be*
> *operating under the same set of rules.*
> *As a voter in Alaska for almost 30 years, I encourage you to vote in*
> *support of the House Bill 111.*
>
> *Thank You*
> *Bill and Jewell Rossback*
>
>
>
>

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Subject: HB111, with amendments
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 11:06:12 -0800
From: "Gamash, Pam" <pgamash@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

I am an ACS employee who witnesses on a daily basis the negative impact to customers caused by the one sided regulation of phone service in Alaska. A situation being called "competition" by GCI is in fact has tied the hands of ACS. Current regulations force ACS to lease lines to GCI at a rate that is below the cost of maintaining the lines. There may have been a time when keeping the ACS giant in check seemed necessary, but that time has passed. ACS has lost 50% of the market share. The current situation also supports regulations that prohibit ACS from offering efficient customer service. Customers who wish to purchase ACS services must be passed to several departments because of guidelines set forth by the RCA. Customers who call GCI for these same services can speak to one person to receive several services with the blessing of the RCA. ACS represenatives are not allowed to even speak about certain ACS products. This gives the impression to the general public that dealing with ACS is painstaking process. If the situation remains as it is today it is only a matter of time before ACS itself is a thing of the past. If ACS, the company that supports GCI & AT&T fails....then what will Alaskans do for phone service. Please level the playing field & help untie the hands of Alaskan Communications Systems, I urge you to vote yes on HB111, with amendments.

Pam Gamash

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Subject: HB111
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 12:13:07 -0700 (PDT)
From: "Gerald S. and A. Linda Beyer" <gbeyer@rocketmail.com>
To: Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us

Dear Ms McGuire:<?xml:namespace prefix = o ns = "urn:schemas-microsoft-com:office:office" />

Thank you for taking the time to read my e-mail. I would ask you to consider supporting HB111 with the amendments, rather than without.

I am an ACS employee, and have watched the RCA (APUC) rule consistently favor of GCI over the past ten years. There is at least one staff member who is a former ATU employee that bears ACS serious ill will, regardless of the merit of cases before them, and it's important to both competition and to fairness that the commission not be allowed to ajudicate w/o legislative review.

Trying not to be inflammatory, GCI has attained it's current market position by raising local cable rates (where they have the monopoly), and also by being subsidized by ACS' being forced to sell them core services well under our actual costs.

I believe that if the RCA persists in their historical approach, you will see the end of ACS.

I hope you will consider my concerns when your vote comes due.

cordially,

Gerald Beyer

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The New Yahoo! Search - Faster. Easier. Bingo.

Subject: HB111
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 11:21:58 -0800
From: "Robinson, L (Scott)" <LRobinso@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

Good Morning,,,I have worked in the Telephone Industry in our great state of Alaska since 1974.I have seen many,many changes.Deregulation was a major change.Since then the consumer has been the one to pay.I feel compitition is very important,especially when it is on a fair playing field.I feel ACS should not have to subsidize GCI .This subsidy takes root in lease rates that are a mere fraction of the true cost that ACS has incurred.Please support HB111 and all of its critical amendments.... Thank you very much for your time Scott Robinson

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Subject: FW: Pass House Bill 111 Including Amendments
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 11:30:27 -0800
From: "Dale, Kathy" <KDALE@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

> *-----Original Message-----*
> *From: Dale, Kathy*
> *Sent: Thursday, May 15, 2003 11:20 AM*
> *To: 'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.as.us';*
> *'Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.state.ak.us';*
> *'Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us';*
> *'Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us';*
> *'Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.state.ak.us';*
> *'Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us';*
> *'Representative_Max_Gurenberg@legis.state.ak.us'*
> *Cc: 'kdale@acsalaska.net'*
> *Subject: Pass House Bill 111 Including Amendments*
>
> *I have been an employee in the telecommunications industry in Alaska since*
>
> *1989. I came into this industry when the model for public services was a*
> *monopoly. I am still here where the model for telecommunications is*
> *supposed to be competition. However, that is not the model that is*
> *operating. The incumbent local exchange carrier (ILEC) is treated as a*
> *monopoly and regulated by the RCA. The competitive local exchange carrier*
>
> *(CLEC) is allowed to set its rates with out filing rate cases, can bundle*
> *regulated and deregulated services and purchase regulated lines from the*
> *ILEC at $10 less per month than it costs to maintain that line. I don't*
> *think the ILECs in Alaska are afraid of competition, but GCI most*
> *certainly is. GCI is spending a tremendous amount of money to keep the*
> *ILECs regulated. Ask yourself why? Support HB 111 including amendments*
> *and give the citizens of Alaska true telecommunications competition.*
>
> *Thank you in advance for your support in this effort. kd*
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Subject: HB111
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 11:30:42 -0800
From: "Hanley, Abigail" <Abigail.Hanley@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

Representative McGuire:

I have lived my entire life here in Alaska, and I had planned on staying here. However the Regulatory Commission of Alaska is now threatening my job security, retirement, and my future here in Alaska. Please support HB 111 with all of its critical amendments. I am very proud to be an ACS employee, and I want our company to survive. ACS treats it's employees and customers with great care and consideration. I find GCI's business practices despicable and yet they seem to be rewarded for being underhanded. Having been a cable customer (out of necessity not by choice) I have seen my rates get raised over and over again..... Where is the government when they do this?

ACS should be allowed to compete by the same rules as GCI. For example, ACS should be allowed to bundle together regulated and unregulated services such as local, long distance, Internet and Wireless. I have been fortunate enough to work in all of these departments and I have seen firsthand the way that our hands are tied. In order to set up a customer with Local, Long Distance, and Internet the customer has to be transferred to at least three separate departments. However if they call GCI, one rep is able to help with everything. How is this fair competition? I ask again that you support HB 111 with all of its critical amendments.

Thank you,
Abigail Hanley

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Subject: HB 111
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 11:32:26 -0800
From: "Simpson, William (Bill)" <wsimpson@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

I urge you to vote for HB 111

WITH the amendments added by the House Rules Committee.

William L. Simpson

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Subject: HB 111 with Amendments
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 11:33:58 -0800
From: "Olson, Kirsten" <Kirsten.Olson@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

Dear Ms McGuire,

> *I am writing you in regards to the HB 111 that is currently in debate. I think it is essential to both my own personal future, and the future of the telecommunications field in Alaska, that the HB 111 gets passed with all it's critical amendments. ACS should be allowed to complete by the same rules as GCI. I find myself in a situation where my job is at risk. If the RCA is allowed to continue as is, without the necessary amendments, I will not have a job in a few years. It is so vitally important to have the HB 111 as amended passed. Competition in Alaska has far surpassed what was originally intended with Telecommunications Act of 1996, and there is no need for the status quo to continue as is. I feel confident in saying that with the passage of the amended HB 111 that it will make the telecommunications industry even stronger in Alaska by making it a fairer market.*
>
> *I am very concerned about my job and my livelihood. I encourage you to represent my family and myself when you cast your vote on this important piece of legislation. Please support HB 111 and all it's critical amendments.*
>
> *Respectfully,*
>
> *Kirsten M. Olson*
>
>

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Subject: HB111 & SB72
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 11:34:01 -0800
From: "Wilcox, Debbie" <dwilcox@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

PLEASE VOTE TO SUPPORT HB111 & SB72 WITH ALL OF THE AMENDMENTS !

When House Bill 111 as amended passes, Alaskan telecommunications consumers will have real competition for the first time. Competition which allows all service providers to offer their "best" deals because all the competing companies will be operating under the same set of rules on a level playing field.

Forcing ACS to subsidize its competitors is not competition.

Sincerely,

Debbie Wilcox
P. O. Box 241493
Anchorage, Ak. 99524

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Subject: HB 111 as amended
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 11:34:35 -0800
From: "Brown, Philip C." <PBrown@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.st
"'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat
"'Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.sta
"'Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us>

I am a testboardman for ACS, and have worked for GCI in the past. It would be fair to say that your action on the HB 111 will have a significant impact on my livelihood. I have seen the devastating effects of the actions of the RCA over the past few years on the financial well-being of my employer. Please enact this legislation with its amendments, in order to bring some sense back into the telecommunications industry in Alaska. Without these amendments, the current inequities are sure to do far-reaching and irreversible damage to not only ACS, but to Alaskan consumers as well.

Thank you for voting to ensure that telecom competition in Alaska benefits consumers as much as it has GCI over the past three years.

Phil Brown
Testdeskman
(907)564-1804
(907)561-0303 Fax

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Subject: Please Support HB111 With Ammendments
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 11:37:53 -0800
From: "Rasor, Holly E." <hrasor@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat
"'Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.sta
"'Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.sta
"'Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.s

Dear Honorable Representatives,

My Name is Holly Rasor I have lived here in Alaska since I was 5 years old. I am now 24 years old I work for ACS, before I worked here I never understood what competion really meant. Now I might be biased but what I see happening does not seem fair at all.

Right now all I see is a company taking advantage of unfair competion. By GCI using our lines that we have to sell to them at a cheaper price and them turning around and selling our lines to their customers at a even lower rate. Then us having to fix them for free! Where is the fairness or the competion in that. What is going to happen to all of the customers when ACS has to go out of business becasue of some unfair regulations.

Then not only will those unfair regulations have destroyed the lively hood of me and my family but others as well. I urge you to support HB111 WITH AMMENDMENTS. It is the fair and right thing to do. Compentition is fun and a great thing to witness, showing which company has better quaility and more innovative ideas but only if it is done fair. Please help us by supporting this.

Thank you for your time and consideration

Holly Rasor
564-1123

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Subject: Support for HB 111
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 11:39:57 -0800
From: "Torkelson, Shari" <storkels@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat
"'Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.sta
"'Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.sta
"'Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.s

To my Legislators,
I am a registered voter and long time ACS employee.
I support HB 111 not only as an employee of ACS, but as a consumer of utilities.
GCI has been given the leading edge in communications by "unfair competition legislation".
This needs to be corrected and HB 111 and all its ammendments is critical in bringing true
competition to Alaska. In my years here, GCI always advertises fair competition, when in fact
my experience been the opposite. Their court record is proof of that.
They monopolize the cable TV industry here in Anchorage! And their rates reflect that.
GCI has a fair share of the market.
They fought for years to prevent ACS from entering the long distance market.
We need competition to be fair!
Please support HB 111.

Shari Torkelson
Network Design Engineer
ACS Network Engineering
Phone 907-564-1844
Fax 907-564-8552

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Subject: hb111
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 11:40:28 -0800
From: "Berkley, Stacy" <sberkley@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

I am hoping by writing you my concerns about the bill HB111 with amendments will be looked at seriously. My family has been apart of Alaska for over 75years they have seen things come and go. My family has been with this Alaska Company all of there lives so to see and hear the things that are happening to this company is dreadful. Unfair competition has to go, and by passing this bill will help do that. Alaska Communication System welcomes competition but it must be fair competition it must be equal. And if other companies want to use or resources they should be able to but they must pay a full price just like any other customer. So please don't be swayed by the negative ads in the paper by our competition but fight back and say "What's fair is fair" HB111 with amendments will be passed.

Thank You
Stacy Berkley

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Subject: HB111
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 11:41:01 -0800
From: "Sylvia, Trena L." <TSylvia@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

Representatives for Interior Alaska
And
House Finance Committee Members

Re: HB111

I would like to first take the time to thank you for reading my letter.

My request for you simply is to support HB 111 and all of its amendments. Over the last couple of years, I have noticed an increase in unfair rules and regulations limiting my companies' competitiveness. This makes it increasingly hard to maintain a level of job security for fellow co-workers and myself. We all offer a great deal to our community. I have establish myself in the community through my involvement in 4-H. Having raised two daughters in Fairbanks, and still having one daughter starting her 8th grade year; job security is a vital part of my families life. My family also provides horses for 4-H members in our community to use, to learn the value of working with animals. Again, this is something I could not do without my job.

I love working at ACS. Never have I ever worked for a company with so much compassion toward their employee's or customers. It would be a tremendous loss to Alaska if HB 111 did not pass with the amendments.

We must be allowed to compete fairly, by the same rules and guidelines as GCI. When House Bill 111 as amended passes, I feel, our state will for the first time have real competition in telecommunications.

My family as voters in your district encourages you to represent us when you cast your vote in this important legislation. Please support HB111 and all its critical amendments.

Thank you,
Trena Sylvia
Community Member
And
ACS Employee

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Subject: HB 111 WITH AMENDMENTS-SUPPORT IT PLEASE!
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 12:42:37 -0700 (PDT)
From: Michael Mandregan <mmandregan@yahoo.com>
To: Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us, Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.state.ak.us, Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us, Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us, Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.state.ak.us, Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us, Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.state.ak.us

Dear Committee Members;

Please, bring fairness into this "competition".

I have been employed by ACS for 9 years. The reality of how negatively the RCA's unfairness has effected ACS' bottom line is hard to describe. We are honest hard workers here at ACS. We support competition. It is in my nature to compete, but competition is meaningless if the officials don't know or understand the rules of the game! I know what it's like to favor the "underdog". GCI is no underdog in this so-called regulated environment. Please pass HB 111 With Amendments.

Cordially Yours,
Dedicated Citizen-ACS Employee-Father of 2

Michael Mandregan, Engineer-Network Circuit Design

Do you Yahoo!?
The New Yahoo! Search - Faster. Easier. Bingo.

Subject: HB 111
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 11:46:53 -0800
From: "Snisarenko, Shawn" <ssnisarenko@ascg.com>
To: <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us>

Ms. McGuire:

My name is Shawn Snisarenko and my address is 8441 Moorland St, Anchorage, AK 99502. First I would like to say that I am in no way affiliated with ACS, nor do I know anyone who works there. I am in favor of HB111 with the amendments pertaining to fair compensation for leasing the equipment of the primary carrier. I believe in competition in the market place; however, it needs to occur on a level playing field. It is not fair that ACS must compete with one hand tied with one hand tied behind their back. In fact, I continue to use ACS for my local and long distance phone service as a protest against this situation even though it costs more. GCI has some nerve to complain about this bill. They continue to hold a monopoly on cable TV and have no problem raking Anchorage consumers over the coals with the highest cable rates in the country.

Thank you for your attention on this matter.

Shawn P. Snisarenko

Subject: Requesting your support of HB111 with amendments
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 11:54:06 -0800
From: "Neff, La'Net" <LNeff@acsalaska.com>
To: Anderson T <Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.state.ak.us>,
Gruenberg Max <Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.state.ak.us>,
Holm Jim <Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us>,
Les Gara <Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us>,
McGuire L <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us>,
Ogg D <Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us>,
Samuels Ralph <Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.state.ak.us>

Since the initial ACS-GCI 'interim' interconnection agreement was signed, ACS has had regulations so stringent that we are not allowed compete in the local telephone service market. We continue to be considered the "incumbent LEC" for local telephone service, although we clearly have lost close to 50% of our market share in the Anchorage market-if not more! This did not happen yesterday, last week or even last month. We have been begging for relief for YEARS.

It is more than time to even the playing field and require GCI to compensate ACS for the costs of the services we provide to their customers. It is also time for ACS to be able to provide the same level of service to our customers as GCI does to theirs (Bundling services together, ease of business for our customer base, etc).

Our goal is to be able to proudly promote competition in the state of Alaska, we understand that this benefits the communities we serve, we simply want to be given the ability to be competitive.

We urge you to look at the FACTS about this issue and weigh them carefully. ACS and it's employees as well as our customers need your vote:

Please support HB111 WITH AMENDMENTS.

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Subject: HB 111
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 11:56:34 -0800
From: "John F. Jansen" <santaman@alaska.net>
To: Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us

I urge you to support HB 111 with current amendments. I do not believe that ACS should be
forced to lease its facilities to GCI at a fraction of the costs.
RCA's practices are skewed against ACS.

--

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

John F. Jansen
P.O. Box 3609
8508 Highlander Circle
Palmer AK 99645-3609

Phone: 907/746-2963
Fax: 907/746-2964
email: santaman@alaska.net

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Subject: Fair competition?
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 12:03:16 -0800
From: "Moninski, Olga" <omoninsk@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat
"'Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.sta
"'Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.s
"'Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us>

Dear Representatives.

I have worked in the Telecommunications industry for twenty two years: sixteen of them in Russia and six in the U.S.A. (including more than three years for ACS.) I can tell you that competition is great: it keeps the prices down and pushes telecommunications companies to develop different features to attract customers.

However, it's difficult to call the situation we have now "competition" when one company gets special treatment. If ACS one day goes out of business, what will the State of Alaska have to say? That they didn't mean for it to happen?

Please support HB 111 and all its critical amendments. Please don't favor one child over another one.

Best regards,

Olga "Olya" Moninski
ACS Engineering
(907) 564-1185 office ph.
(907) 242-9019 cell ph.
omoninsk@acsalaska.com
fax (907) 564-3447

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Subject: I support HB111 with amendments
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 13:06:33 -0700 (PDT)
From: jason werner <ja_wer@yahoo.com>
To: Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us, Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us, Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us, Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.state.ak.us, Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us

To all Representatives,

My name is Jason Werner, I have lived in alaska and
been a resident for over 20 yrs. I support Alaska and
fair competition in our economy.

I Support HB111 with amendments

Jason Werner
17622 N Juanita Loop
Eagle River, AK
622 1003\Cell 830 4004

Do you Yahoo!?
The New Yahoo! Search - Faster. Easier. Bingo.
http://search.yahoo.com

Subject: Support HB 111 WITH AMENDMENTS!!!!
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 12:09:29 -0800
From: "Wendy Eggleston" <laren.eggleston@acsalaska.net>
To: <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us>

I believe that we need fare competion in the telecommunications field. I believe that ACS formally ATU/PTI has suffered long enough. GCI had the better part
of the Market share with going into new territories. I feel that isn't about time that GCI pays their fare share on the rates instead of getting the cream of the crop. I believe that the RCA should treat everyone as equals in the telecommunication field, Instead of giving provisions to the ones that they favor. Why should ACS customers suffer all the impact on the rates and pay more while GCI is getting a sweet deal that the RCA will not change??? They shouldn't. We all should be equal.

Thank you
Wendy Eggleston

Subject: HB 111
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 12:16:18 -0800
From: "Penny" <penny@alaska.net>
To: <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us>

I support HB 111 with amendments. My job at ACS, my career, my family's well being are at stake.

Thank you.

Penny Straka

Subject: Support HB 111
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 12:28:53 -0800
From: "The Helvies" <helvies@acsalaska.net>
To: <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us>,
<Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.state.ak.us>,
<Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us>, <Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us>,
<Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.state.ak.us>,
<Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us>,
<Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.state.ak.us>

Please support HB 111 and all its critical amendments.

ACS should be allowed to compete by the same rules as GCI.

What we have witnessed through full-page ads, radio spots, Internet sites, and political maneuvering is an attempt to maintain a structure, which requires ACS to subsidize its chief competitor, GCI, the cable monopolist. This subsidy takes root in lease rates that are a mere fraction of the true cost ACS has incurred. I encourage you to support HB 111 and all its critical amendments.

I have been to GCI's web site for "Fair Competition" and was dissapointed to see GCI trying to make ACS and AT&T out as the "Bad Guys. Forcing ACS to subsidize its competitors is not competition. Please vote for what is right.

I have attached a link to the Illinoise State Legislater to let you see how they have delt with this issue.
http://www.legis.state.il.us/legislation/publicacts/fulltext.asp?Name=093-0005

Sincerely,

Roger Helvie

Subject: House Approves Nurse Incentive Program
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 12:36:59 -0800
From: J D Wallace <JD_Wallace@Legis.state.ak.us>
Organization: Alaska State Legislature
To: lhscjdw+housemajlegs@legis.state.ak.us

Representative Peggy Wilson
District 2

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 15, 2003
CONTACT: J.D. Wallace, House Majority Press Secretary (907) 465-5369

House Approves Nurse Incentive Program

Debt Relief Will Help Bring More Nurses to the State

(Juneau)—The Alaska House of Representatives unanimously approved HB 211 by a vote of 37 to zero on Thursday. Sponsored by House Health, Education, and Social Services Committee Chair Rep. Peggy Wilson (R-Wrangell), HB 211 establishes the Alaska Nurse Recruitment Loan Repayment Program as an incentive to attract new nurses to the state and encourage Alaskans to pursue nursing vocations in Alaska. The program offers up to $2,000 per year, not to exceed $10,000 to repay nursing loans.

"Lightening a nurse's loan repayment burden by even this modest amount should help attract more nurses to Alaska, and encourage Alaskans who are training to be nurses to stay here," Representative Wilson said.

In 2002, the Alaska Colleagues in Caring, in collaboration with the Alaska Hospital and Nursing Home Association, surveyed the need for more nurses in Alaska healthcare facilities. Results showed that vacancy rates for RNs had increased from 5.7% in 2000 to 11.5% in 2002, with more increases projected for the future. Facilities in western and northern Alaska reported a vacancy rate of more than 20%.

The Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development projects that the state will need 4100 more nurses in the next seven years, almost double the current demand. The University of Alaska and health care institutions in the state are cooperating to expand in state nursing education opportunities, and aim to double the number of nursing graduates by 2006. Wilson, who is also a nurse, said that Alaska cannot afford to wait any longer to provide financial incentives to bring more nurses to Alaska.

"The quality of our health care is clearly in danger because of this shortage, and our health care facilities are spending millions of dollars to hire visiting nurses," Wilson said. "Our hospitals could spend those funds much more effectively on nurses who are committed to staying in Alaska communities."

HB 211 moves to the Senate.

# # #

Subject: Amended HB111
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 12:40:00 -0800
From: "Mathews, Ronald D." <RMathews@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

Dear Representative,

My name is Ron Mathews, I have lived in Alaska for 46 yrs, born in Sitka and now living in Juneau. I am not a politically minded person nor have I ever written any of my political resources. I think it is time with the upcoming HB111. I believe very much in competition in the work place, and being a business owner I thrive on the opportunity to provide a better service than my competitors. What is happening between GCI and the local Telephone Co. has got nothing to do with fair competition, and being a Country that is providing a free equal environment for the 3rd world countries, it is deplorable to see what out government is allowing to take place right here in Alaska. I have a high respect for our political structure and the people who man the post. I guess what I really want to say here is that you, our people in office have an obligation before God almighty and than to the people you serve, to do what is right. I have read the ads in the Newspaper and heard the ads on the radio that GCI is putting out. I know the general public might not what is true or false, but you our Government does. Fair business would be for GCI to use its own Cable plant and sell its own service, and the local Telephone Co use its own Cable plant to sell its service. And the rules for the one have to be the same as the rules for the second. PLEASE DO NOT ALLOW THE AMENDMENTS BE STRIPPED OFF HB111 We so need an honest government

Thank you for listening

Ron Mathew

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Subject: Please support HB 111 and all its critical amendments.
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 12:18:29 -0800
From: "Dykman, Michelle K." <mdykman@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

Dear Committee:

I thank you for taking the time to read my letter, however I have to tell you, I have never taken the time to sit down and write to any politician. Like most people, I always thought it fell on deaf ears. But this time is different because it is in my back yard as they say.
So I am writing to you today in regards to the HB 111 W/ AMENDMENTS.
I am not just a voting constituent, but more importantly I am a CONSUMER. And as a consumer I want to see fair competition and lower rates. (And in case know one knows it.... you don't get lower rates without competition)
So as a voter in your district, I encourage you to represent my family and myself when you cast your vote on this important legislation. Please support HB 111 and all its critical amendments.
What is the harm in allowing peoples voices to be heard over all the negative yammering from GCI. Which is another thing that really bother's me, the ads that GCI are allowed to air. They continue to bombard the airways with constant negative slanderous accusations of ACS, It pains me to have to explain these GCI ads to my 11 year old son when he ask's me what they are talking about. Especially when we as parents are trying to teach our children to be FAIR, MORAL & ETHICAL in their responsibilities to the community they live in.
(In case any of you have forgotten people learn by example.)

Another thing I don't understand is... If the Regulatory Commission was established to protect ME the consumer.... Then where were they when GCI raised cable rates several times & then went even further to FORCE consumer's to take their higher priced digital cable Service? This is what happened to my family when one of our cable box's went on the blip & GCI came out to fix it, I was forced to take their over priced digital cable service there was no other option's available to me. I think this kind of monopoly is outrageous, But I guess I should not worry since I do have the RCA to watch out for ME! This experience has once again sent the message that there is some kind of hidden agenda that the RCA must be trying to achieve.

I think competition is GREAT ... and absolutely necessary for our community to continue to grow.

If the general public would actually take the time to find out the facts surrounding the phone wars, any sane person would see that GCI is getting more than their fair share of the market at the high exorbitant cost to ACS. By leasing there facility's at 1/2 the cost.
I'm not sure but I think they have a name for people like that ... Swindler's?

So once again I would like to reiterate my strong feelings towards this issue. And since every problem has to have a solution & every solution has to have a starting place then start by leveling the playing field for fair competition and allow the consumer's to make a more educated choice as to which company they want to provide there service to them.

Thanks for listening.....

Sincerely,

Michelle Dykman
Wk # 564-1730

Please support HB 111 and all its critical amendments.

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Subject: Support HB111 WITH Amendments
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 12:57:25 -0800
From: "Colp, Larry D." <lcolp@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat
"'Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.sta
"'Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.sta
"'Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.s
CC: "'Representative_John_Coghill@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_John_Coghill@legis.state.ak
"'Representative_Hugh_Fate@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Hugh_Fate@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Jim_Whitaker@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Jim_Whitaker@legis.state.a

Dear Honorable Representatives

Competition is fine as long as the playing field is level, which it presently is not.

It is like an auto dealership on best corner of the city established years ago. It is forced to lease show lot and service garage portion (until up to 30-40% of market) at a cost basis of averaged since dealership begun. The competition is then allowed to pass fliers out just outside gate encouraging use of competitive portion only. Leasing includes all exc pt billing and collection since database of parts used by each customer still must be maintained with just note that it belongs to competition. When expansion is needed, it is required to be done and is accomplished but then competition gets to use added at previous lease value even if newest cost is 10 times original. This is not fair competition since competitor does not have to build similar or better to get customer. Let us use depreciation tables of FCC or Tax Code of economic life, not RCA mandated potential possible facility life.

I have heard of those building a new house being told to sign up with ACS and after the drop plowed into house and connected for a month to switch to GCI. Capital recovery at historic average.

What irked me the most to hear is that RCA commissioner during a hearing asked GCI what would be reasonable increase and the off-handed verbal response "just happened" to be very close to the result. By cost basis?

Losses to aid a competitor by sales below cost make sure that there is no money for capital additions for new features desired nor expansion to new subdivisions/business construction. From my perspective already there is not enough money for even basic infrastructure replacements before service loss. Further erosion will make the original establishing business bankrupt, which in this case will also kill the services of the competitor-without-infrastructure.

I am a non-management employee of ACS which is about ready to retire so am not trying to support my job. I just see the present RCA mandates to be wrong. I have been a member of the Republican State Central Committee.

I urge you to support HB111 WITH Amendments as best way to support citizen oversight while allowing proper cost recovery to provide services expected by citizens.

Thank you for your representation.

Larry Colp
456-5863r, 459-6285w

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Subject: HB 111
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 13:02:42 -0800
From: "Congleton, Bruce M." <BConglet@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

As an ACS employee, I feel that the rules that we must comply with should also be followed by GCI. Being that this is not the case, the result on our part is large loss of revenue due to an unfair advantage. GCI in turn uses this to their advantage as a means of discrediting our company.

I am a very strong believer in the free enterprise system. Competition between businesses should follow the same guidelines as all other forms of competion, meaning that the same rules should apply to both sides.

Please vote to support HB 111 with amendments.

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Subject: HB111 with Amendments
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 17:10:49 -0400
From: "Mary Hughes" <MHughes@acsalaska.com>
To: "The Honorable Lesil L. McGuire" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us>

Mary Hughes
9742 Reliance dr
Anchorage, AK 99507

May 15, 2003

The Honorable Lesil L. McGuire
House of Representatives
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative McGuire:

I am asking for your support on HB 111 with amendments. The competition doesn't have to follow the same rules as ACS. ACS should be allowed to charge the true cost for their facilities and the depreciation rate should be the same for all the telecommunication companies. ACS should be able to offer all their services & product to the customer with one phone call. The rules should be the same for every one. I am asking that you support HB111 with amendments so the rules are the same for everyone

Sincerely,

Mary E. Hughes

Subject: Bill # HB111
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 13:13:59 -0800
From: "Aldrich, Sunny" <sunny.aldrich@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat
"'Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.sta
"'Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.sta
"'Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.s

To whom it may concern:

I am very concerned about the outcome of bill HB111 with ammendments, and am writing to encourage you to support it. I have lived and worked in Alaska my entire life, and I feel that any attack on the infrastructure of our local and rural phone systems is a disservice to Alaskans. It is clear to me that the recent ad campaign and actions taken by GCI is intended to mislead the public so that they can continue to hold an unfair advantage over ACS and damage our ability to service the public. If the legislation is not passed that will allow ACS to charge our resellers what it COSTS us to offer subscriber lines, we will not be able to invest in new services for Alaskans. GCI now has a large enough market share for the telecommunications market here to be considered competitive. Therefore there is no reason to further limit our ability to do business. GCI's efforts to counter this legislation are self serving and will hurt Alaskans in the long run.

This isn't just about the future of me and my family. This is about the future of telecommunications in Alaska. Who would it serve for ACS to continue to sell lines under cost until we can no longer afford to do business? If we're out of business, so are our resellers. In the process, the infrastructure suffers from lack of resources to maintain it and the cost to recover from the damage would be staggering. That scenario benefits no one but GCI.

ACS is run in Alaska by Alaskans. Our ability to do business in this state affects thousands of jobs statewide. We should be allowed to compete fairly with GCI in order to keep our business healthy and to offer the best services and newest technology to Alaskans. The ACS companies pioneered service in Alaska and in the Wireless and long distance markets offer the only real local competition to out-of-state businesses like AT&T and GCI. Our financial future affects all Alaskans and the services that are offered to them. We're the only local choice in many markets for many Alaskans.

Please support Alaskan jobs and businesses by leveling the playing field and allowing us to business the way it's intended to be done - fairly.

Sincerely,

Sunny Aldrich

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speak with the message sender. In addition, please immediately delete this message and all attachments. Thank you.

May 15, 2003

Dear Honorable Representatives,

My name is Stacie Byrns. I am a single mother and I work for Alaska Communications Systems. I am writing to you in hopes that you will support HB 111 WITH all amendments attached.

The reason that I am asking you to support this bill is not only because I work for Alaska Communications Systems (ACS), but also because without fair competition in the Telecommunications Area the customer (YOU and I) become caught in the middle. When there is a fair and equal competition field then WE come out on top.

I have always prided myself on being fair and just to everyone no matter what the situation as such when I see a full-page ad or hear a radio spot that is filled with untruths then I get upset. This political maneuvering is nothing more then an attempt to maintain a structure, which requires ACS to subsidize its chief competitor, GCI. This subsidy takes root in lease rates that are a mere fraction of the true cost ACS has incurred.

Why would ACS raise it Local and/or Business Customer Rates by $100 million annually? Don't you think that this is a little opperserd? That would only encourage our customers to turn to GCI for service. ACS would raise its interconnect fees so that GCI was paying a compensatory rate for the use of the ACS Network. This to me would be a fair playing field.

When House Bill 111 as amended passes, then Alaskan telecommunications consumers will have real competition for the first time. Competition which allows all service providers to offer their "BEST" deals because all the competing companies will be operating under the same set of rules on a level playing field.

Thank you for voting FOR HB 111 WITH all amendments.

Sincerely,
Stacie Byrns
Sr. Clerical Specialist
Alaska Communications Systems
564-1929 work

Subject: FW: will you proof this.
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 13:48:04 -0800
From: "Fifield, Donese L." <dfifield@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat
"'Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.state.ak.u
"'Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.sta
"'Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Pete_Kott@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Pete_Kott@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Ethan_Berkowitz@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Ethan_Berkowitz@legis
CC: "'Lt_Governor@gov.state.sk.us'" <Lt_Governor@gov.state.sk.us>

> *My name is Donese Fifield. I have lived in Alaska since I was 1*
> *years old (1971). I have 2 wonderful boys and a wonderful husband. My*
> *mother has also worked in the Telecommunications industry for 16 years at*
> *Alascom, and I have worked in the Telecommunications industry for six*
> *years. I am proud to have "Telephony" a part of my family , and who knows*
> *maybe my son's will grow up to be a line man, or Engineer in the same*
> *industry If given the chance only If the industry's integrity can be*
> *saved.*

I see a situation where my company is not allowed compete on a equal and level playing field. Every day I process orders for a competitor that receives a substantial discount and munipulates an agreement that we (ACS) entered into in good faith to be in compliance with the Telecommunications Act. Our hands are tied and frankly this competitor doesn't even come close to being able to pay my wages for the service/s I/we provide for them routinely and on a daily basis. It is beyond frustrating and I hate to sound biased, I really do want to see far competition.

> *My job security, retirement, and my children's future are at stake*
> *here as well as the integrity of the Telecommunications Industry.*
> *Please support HB 111 and all amendments. As a voter in your district, I*
> *encourage you to represent my family and myself when you cast your vote on*
> *this important legislation.*
> *My fellow employees and I have run across a very peculiar concept*
> *UNE=Unbundled Network Element, this simple concept has so many definitions*
> *because the RCA is allowed to make up things as they go here in Alaska.*
> *There is no standard in the Telecommunications Industry regarding this*
> *UNE/UNE-P and the appropriate billing for this type of offering. It*
> *"certainly" DOESN'T even begin to cover the costs incurred by the*
> *incumbant LEC (ACS) which by they way we are barely holding a 50% margin*
> *these days on LEC customers in Anchorage and the similar scenarios where*
> *GCI has entered the Market. UNE I feel was an established standard until*
> *ACS was forced to allow a parasite too feed off under the gause of fair*
> *competition. Other states are trying to do something about this also. It*
> *absolutely is a HUGE issue and needs to be looked at from a different*
> *perspective. Would you order from Nordstrom and expect the same*
> *merchandise for a 26% discount that Sears sells theirs for? And then also*
> *expect Sears to deliver it at the same standards?*
> *What I have witnessed through full-page ads, radio spots, Internet*
> *sites, and political maneuvering is an attempt to maintain a structure,*
> *which requires ACS to subsidize its chief competitor, GCI, the cable*
> *monopolist. This subsidy takes root in lease rates that are a mere*
> *fraction of the true cost ACS has incurred. This is NOT right!!! NOR,*
> *would I in good conscientious "ever" state to the public "Fair*
> *Competition" is in place and working here in Alaska. I am proud to work*
> *ACS. If GCI wants to be a phone company and compete they need to become*
> *a Phone Company and do so, not rely on us to install "ALL" the necessary*
> *facilities to adequately support "their" customer base. As an employee*
> *who processes their orders let me tell you, they rely on us completely to*
> *much to provide not only the physical equipment to provide the service but*

> *also how to right there orders, and then complain when they can't right*
> *there orders correctly, that we are delaying service. They lie. That's all*
> *they know what do really well.*
> *They need to be in the field doing what ever is necessary to get*
> *there own customers and not have access to our customer base via*
> *"electronic process" and other methods in which makes the concept of fair*
> *competition a complete joke. Not to mention the fact they pay a fraction*
> *of the cost to cover any of the facilities they need ACS to provide,*
> *install and work for them. We even have to face GCI's so called*
> *"customers" in the field when installing service, for what I might say*
> *most customers in Juneau and Fairbanks didn't know they ordered and sent*
> *us away. What's wrong with that picture?*
> *I love my job, and my community and being able to provide my family*
> *a secure future with the fact I have a STABLE job, that pays well and has*
> *wonderful medical, and other benefits, Including being a member of the*
> *IBEW. Which adds to my pride of what I do.*
>
> *It is imperative for government officials in Alaska to recognize*
> *their is a problem with the current RCA as it stands, and to make the*
> *level of playing field fair to allow more consumer choice, and more open*
> *competition, It must move forward to a deregulatory framework, Also to*
> *quit subsidizing one competitor over another. Support HB 111 AND ALL*
> *Amendments.*
>
The local economy can not afford to have high paying, stable jobs lost. Or better yet who will do GCI's work when we have little to no staff due to layoffs because we are paying for and maintaining their Infra-structure to compete against us >?

I realize this is long and appreciate all you're time, really I do.
Please keep fair competition "FAIR" and Standard!
Not to mention my cable bill certainty hasn't gone down, and I have no other "choice" for cable service, other than getting A dish, which has less standards for choices than cable, where is the competition in that?

> *DONESE FIFIELD*
> *PROUD ACS BUSINESS SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE*
> *564 7972*
> *564 1444 FAX*
>
>
>
>
>
>

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Subject: hb111
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 13:54:00 -0800
From: "Masneri, Stanley" <smasneri@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat

Dear Representative McGuire;

I know that your offices are being flooded with email and faxes on this issue. I certainly hope you take the time, in good faith, to head what they say.

I am corresponding with you to convey a sense of urgency in asking for your support of House Bill 111 with all of its' pending amendments. Competition is a win/win situation. But only with a level playing field, which has NOT existed in Alaska since the inception of the RCA. It is time to move beyond petty argument and finally bring this issue into alignment with the original intent of the Telecommunications Act. Which I for one do not believe was to force local carriers to subsidize fledgling parasitical companies to the point of their own insolvency. I do not posses the political correctness to state things as subtly or as delicately as yourself, but I do know right from wrong and I would hope that my vote was not wasted last November.

If you and your peers, with your imbued authorities, give the RCA the continuing power to force an already struggling company into yet more concessions, you will surely be to blame for the death of what should have been a backbone industry in the State. Just as if you pulled the plug yourselves. Who then benefits from the RCA's definition of fair competition? As a consumer I don't care in the least if I save a few pennies each month on my services, if those services become jeopardized, threatened, or deleted altogether.

It is my sincere hope that Alaska will finally break the trend of being years behind the rest of the nation in most things progressive. Anyone that cares to keep abreast of the topic of competition knows how the true intent of the Telecomm Act has been twisted and perverted in the court system to do nothing more than subsidize companies that, for the most part, would not exist were it not for their 'smoke and mirror' tactics and huge political contributions. If things are so equal why is it that more and more states are completely reversing their stance and forcing these new 'competitors' to bear their share of the immense costs associated with maintaining the communications infrastructure.

It is only a matter of time before our legislation is forced to do the same. You will simply have no choice. Please make that choice now!!

I strongly urge you to use your political voice to aid in correcting what I, and many others, see as an egregious contradiction to the principles of free enterprise and fair play upon which this nation was founded.

Please give your full support to House Bill 111 and its' proposed amendments.

Sincerely;

Stan Masneri
907-564-1906 (wk)

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Subject: House Bill 111 With Amendments
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 14:12:24 -0800
From: "Crone, Elaine L." <ECrone@acsalaska.com>
To: "'Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.sta
"'Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.stat
"'Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us>,
"'Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.sta
"'Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.s

Please pass this bill With Amendments. It will not raise ACS telephone rates and it will provide a more level playing field for GCI and ACS, which the RCA has not been willing to do so far. In a more competitive environment both companies could afford to invest in newer technologies and upgrade their current equipment for the benefit of all Alaskan customers. It is unfair to force one company to subsidize another through below cost wholesale rates, longer depreciation schedules, as well as require tariff restrictions that don't allow ACS to bundle their customer offerings for all services in one call center, as well as other restrictions that only apply to ACS, not GCI.

I have lived and worked in Alaska for over 20 years and seen many changes in the telecommunications industry. I've never seen such an unfair regulatory commission before.

Thank you for your consideration.
Elaine Crone
Sitka

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Subject: RCA
Date: Wed, 14 May 2003 17:24:27 -0800
From: Mathew Family <emerald@gci.net>
To: Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us

Rep McGuire --

During the election, I read your campaign materials and heard you describe your qualifications and experience as a Representative. I am confident they are more than adequate to distinguish between good legislation and plain, bad law.

I have read several position statements opposing HB111 in its current form. I have generally shared the viewpoints of most of them, but the GCI position statement is quite different. I have read it and am alarmed. Amendments have apparently been made that would in some cases actually reverse the Legislature's intent for the RCA. Regardless of whether the GCI analysis is based on a "worst-case" interpretation, several criticisms seem to be based on provisions of the bill that (as amended) are not only unfair to Alaskan telephone users, but also would violate Federal law.

In this crucial legislative session, a bill that could cost both the State government and its citizens so much money with no value received in return should be very carefully evaluated.

Is there really another side to these amendments that I don't see?

Unless there is, please do what you can to preserve the RCA's role and integrity for another four years. It has a good record (NOT just with telephone companies!), and is one of those State services that are well worth their cost.

John Mathew
9200 Emerald St
Anchorage AK
99502-1362
907 243 2511

Subject: RCA
Date: Wed, 14 May 2003 10:34:35 -0800
From: "Toni Dixon" <glhdxn@alaska.net>
To: "Lesil Mcguire" <Representative_Lesil_Mcguire@Legis.state.ak.us>

It seems to me that the current RCA has been ineffective BIG TIME. So, forget the amendments, let it lapse and restructure RCA so that it has an independent oversight - this has becomee political and shouldn't. At this point in looks like the head of RCA and GCI are in bed together...or at a lodge, or whatever....

telecom deregulation is just behind eleeccrical deregulation, and telecom degregulation that are the major failures of our time....

You can't force competition...

-----Original Message-----
From: Toni Dixon [mailto:glhdxn@alaska.net]
Sent: Saturday, May 10, 2003 9:38 PM
To: Lesil Mcguire
Subject: RE: [Fwd: McGuire Renews Push for PFD Eligibility for Peace Corps Volunteers]

You go girl!!!

Hey, as long as we are typing, I've got to tell you that even though my kids are grown and almost gone, from my perspective the State can't spend too much on Education.

And, one more thing. Put a cap on the PFD and institute a simple income tax. Let's get it over with. Murky has already lost his credibility on that issue so it is no longer political suicide for him to use the Cap and Tax words.

Keep up the good work. Try not to let the small thinkers get you down.

Toni Dixon

-----Original Message-----
From: Lesil Mcguire
[mailto:Representative_Lesil_Mcguire@Legis.state.ak.us]
Sent: Saturday, May 10, 2003 6:30 PM
Subject: [Fwd: McGuire Renews Push for PFD Eligibility for Peace Corps Volur' eers]

Subject: HB 111
Date: Wed, 14 May 2003 22:15:36 -0800
From: "Howard Marsh, PhD" <hmarsh@nexconsulting.com>
To: Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us

Dear Representative McGuire,

As my elected representative, I would like for you to work to defeat the amended HB111 which, as amended, would allow utilities to act counter to the public's benefit without public oversight. As I understand the amendment(s), ACS would be allowed to change its rate structure without public review. I believe that poor business planning and performance should not be balanced on the backs of consumers through an act of legislation.

Thank you

Sincerely,

Howard Marsh
10631 Cutter Circle
Anchorage, AK 99515

Howard M. Marsh, M.B.A., Ph.D.
Northern Exposure Consulting
Business and Technology Consultant
907-522-1013

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indicating this error and delete the transmission from your system immediately.

Subject: House Bill 111
Date: Wed, 14 May 2003 21:27:34 -0900
From: "Daniel Foote" <dafoote@aklighthouse.org>
To: Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us

Representative McGuire,

I urge you to move Bill 111 from committee. I also urge you to support HB 111 as submitted, with no amendments.

The Regulatory Commission of Alaska protects consumers, such as you and I. Actions supported by RCA findings have also been supported by state and federal courts.

Special interests and their special amendments have attempted to neuter this commission
for spite, at the same time that they've lost market share due to their inability to support their constituency. Please support your constituency--those of us that have elected you to office AND pay the bills.

Regards,

Daniel Foote
3620 Hazen Circle
Anchorage, AK 99515

May 15th, 2003

Jamieson Kraig Smyth
P.O. Box 8071
Nikiski, AK 99635-8071

The Hon. Rep. Lesil McGuire,

Since first leaving college in Fairbanks 21 years ago, I have done work for every major player in Alaska's telecommunications industry. I have always been a strong advocate of measures promoting fair competition, because it is my desire that our communications infrastructure be the very best for all Alaskans. I believe that legislation currently under consideration (i.e. HB111) is critical to invigorating this vital industry.

The federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 helped to not only ensure universal service, but also encouraged the competition needed to drive infrastructure investment, innovation and development. The job of the RCA has been to make sure the ILEC's did not have an unfair advantage over the CLEC's, and they have done a good job of that. The time has finally come however, when competitive conditions between ILEC and CLEC are reversed, and under current state regulations our physical plant infrastructure is visibly deteriorating, due to unfair competition... in reverse!

Presently, for example, ILEC's are required to carry the weight of all outside plant (telecommunications cabling development and maintenance). CLEC's are essentially exempted from this burden by regulation, being able to access that infrastructure at a fraction of the cost to build and maintain it. ILEC's are thereby strongly discouraged from timely infrastructure investments, as they yield negative rates of return. CLEC's, meanwhile have no incentive to build what they can require an ILEC to provide below cost. The whole industry seems to require a regulatory move just to build or upgrade outside plant facilities. This is only one example of the several problems addressed by HB111.

In this environment competition once flourished, but is now starting to choke out the very structure upon which the entire industry is based! In all my years in this industry, I have never seen a time of so little investment in, and maintenance of the hard assets that comprise the backbone of Alaska's communications network. This is happening at a time when production and quality of communications infrastructure is at a critical juncture that will determine how well we prosper as a state in the information based economy that is developing worldwide.

All parties to market competition are now well enabled, and well equipped to do battle for their share. Take the gloves off, and let them have at it! I urge you to support HB111 as amended, in its entirety. Our future depends on it.

Sincerely,

Jamieson Kraig Smyth
Phone: 907-776-7031
Cellular: 907-398-6989
Email: jksmyth@eudoramail.com





Alaska Communications Systems

ACS
35126 K. Beach Road
SOLDOTNA, AK 99669
Phone: 907-260-8610
Fax: 907-260-8620

Fax Transmittal Form

To:

Name:
Organization Name/Dept:
CC:
Phone number:
Fax number:

From: Dave Christoffer

A.C.S.

Phone: 907-260-8610
Fax: 907-260-8620

☐ Urgent
☐ For Review
☐ Please Comment
☐ Please Reply

Date sent: 5/15/03
Time sent:
Number of pages including cover page: 1

Message:

RE: SUPPORT HB 111 and AMMENDMENTS

We are not afraid of competition. We are the most highly skilled workforce in the state and we can compete with anyone, just give us a fair playing field. Support HB 111 WITH AMENDMENTS!!!!

907-260-8610 office
800-760-8620 fax



ACS

Alaska Communications Systems

ACS
35126 K. Beach Road
SOLDOTNA, AK 99669
Phone: 907-260-8610
Fax: 907-260-8620

Fax Transmittal Form

To:	From: Jim McWilliams
Name:	A.C.S.
Organization Name/Dept:	
CC:	Phone: 907-260-8610
Phone number:	Fax: 907-260-8620
Fax number:	
❑ Urgent	Date sent: 6/15/03
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Phone: 907-260-8610
Fax: 907-260-8620

Fax Transmittal Form

To:

Name:
Organization Name/Dept:
CC:
Phone number:
Fax number:

From: Mike Tice

A.C.S.

Phone: 907-260-8610
Fax: 907-260-8620

☐ Urgent
☐ For Review
☐ Please Comment
☐ Please Reply

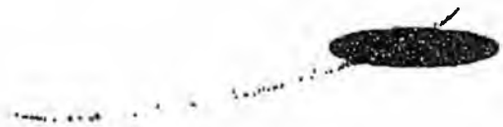
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Alaska Communications Systems

ACS
35126 K. Beach Road
SOLDOTNA, AK 99669
Phone: 907-260-8610
Fax: 907-260-8620

Fax Transmittal Form

To:	From: Stan Huhndorf
Name:	A.C.S.
Organization Name/Dept:	
CC:	Phone: 907-260-8610
Phone number:	Fax: 907-260-8620
Fax number:	
☐ Urgent	Date sent: 5/15/03
☐ For Review	Time sent:
☐ Please Comment	Number of pages including cover page: 1
☐ Please Reply	

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907-260-8610 office
800-760-8620 fax

Please Support HB 111 and all its amendments!

ACS has to share its products and services with competing companies like GCI. The RCA says this will encourage companies like ACS to spend on capital projects to improve advanced deployment of advanced telecommunications equipment to service Alaskans.

This actually discourages companies like ACS to invest on NEW advanced telecommunications equipment to service Alaskans because ACS would have to share this NEW technology with competing companies like GCI, AT&T and TelAlaska and ACS would not a good return on their investment. Companies like GCI do not have to invest on any capital projects and advanced telecommunications equipment to service Alaskans because they can get it from ACS for below cost.

So why should ACS invest on anything. You're in business to make money, not share investments. Who ends up suffering? We Alaskans.

Thank you,
Gilbert Carrillo
8301 Majestic Dr
Anchorage AK 99504

Lesil McGuire
465-6592

Please support HB 111 with the AMENMENTS.

House Bill 111 as amended passes, Alaskan telecommunications consumers will have competition for the first time. Competition which allows all service providers to offer their "best" deals because all the competing companies will be operating under the same set of rules on a level playing field

Thank you,
Stephen Crozier
907-345-0423
pwdr98cat@aol.com

Lesil McGuire
465-6592

SCENARIO:

I have a first class shoe store called Happy Feet for 80 years.

Federal law says, oh no, you have a monopoly.

You must offer competition, and oh by the way, you need to make room in your store for BOBO Marcus to come in and sell your shoes. They can also buy your shoes at below cost & sell them to the public cheaper.

And oh by the way, if you want to have a sale you need to file for an OK. In the meantime, since BOBO can do what they want (because BOBO needs no OK's from anyone), they've already had the sale and sold at below cost ALL my shoes!!

And oh by the way, they can have access to your cash register & customer data base but you need to pay for the building, the utilities, the buyers and any new inventory.

And oh by the way, BOBO can accelerate their depreciation over 12 years but HAPPY needs to depreciate over 30 years.

LUDICROUS, STUPID, RIDICULOUS you bet it is!!!!!!!!!!!!

But exactly the way RCA treats ACS.

FAIR COMPETITION.....NOT REGULATION

PLEASE SUPPORT HB 111 WITH ALL AMENDMENTS

KAREL SHAW
2334 MARIAN BAY CIR
ANCHORAGE, AK 99515
907-522-5251

I am asking for your support on **HB 111 with amendments** so it will level the playing field for everyone. The competition doesn't have to follow the same rules as ACS. ACS should be allowed to charge the true cost for their facilities and the depreciation rate should be the **same** for **all** the telecommunication companies. ACS should be able to offer all their services & product to the customer with one phone call. The rules should be the same for every one. I am asking that you support **HB111 with amendments** so all telecommunication companies has the same level playing field which will benefit all Alaskan.

Thank you,
Mary E. Hughes
ACS/ Service order Representative