

HB

520

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Representative Bruce Weyhrauch

HOUSE DISTRICT 4



ALASKA
STATE CAPITOL
JUNEAU, ALASKA
99801-1182

Memo

(907) 465-3744
FAX (907) 465-2273

To: Members
House State Affairs Committee

From: Rep. Bruce Weyhrauch
Chair, State Affairs

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Bruce Weyhrauch".

Date: May 7, 2004

RE: Waiving HB 520 – Regulatory Commission of Alaska

I recommend that HB 520 be waived from this committee to House Labor and Commerce. This bill relates to the expenses of investigation, hearing, or public advocacy before the Regulatory Commission of Alaska, to calculation of the regulatory cost charge for public utilities and pipeline carriers to include the Department of Law's costs of its public advocacy function, to inspection of certain books and records by the attorney general when participating as a party in a matter before the Regulatory Commission of Alaska. A copy of the Sponsor's Statement is attached as explanation. Your signature below indicates your support of this action by this committee.

A handwritten signature in cursive, likely "Rep. Holm".

Rep. HolmA handwritten signature in cursive, likely "Rep. Seaton".

Rep. SeatonA handwritten signature in cursive, likely "Rep. Lynn".

Rep. LynnA handwritten signature in cursive, likely "Rep. Coghill".

Rep. CoghillA handwritten signature in cursive, likely "Rep. Berkowitz".

Rep. BerkowitzA handwritten signature in cursive, likely "Rep. Gruenberg".

Rep. Gruenberg

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2004 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: HB520-Law-RAPA-2-16-C
 Bill Version: HB 520
 () Publish Date: _____

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): _____ Dept. Affected: LAW
 Title "An Act relating to the expenses of investigation, RDU CIVIL
hearing, or public advocacy before the Regulatory..." Ccponent Regulatory Affairs Public Advocacy
 Sponsor House State Affairs
 Requester House State Affairs Component No. _____

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
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CHANGE IN REVENUES ()						
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FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1007 Interagency Receipts	(1,012.8)	(1,012.8)	(1,012.8)	(1,012.8)	(1,012.8)	(1,012.8)
1141 RCA Receipts	1,012.8	1,012.8	1,012.8	1,012.8	1,012.8	1,012.8
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2004) cost: 0.0
 Mark this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2005 budget proposal:

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

This bill amends AS 42.05.254 by clarifying that the general costs of public advocacy will continue to be paid from the established regulatory cost charge mechanism.

The bill also exempts state agencies from reimbursing the Regulatory Commission of Alaska (commission) for commission costs in proceeding to which the state agency is a party. The bill would require utilities, pipeline carriers, and pipelines to pay the costs of contract expert witnesses retained by the attorney general when the attorney general appears as a public advocate for regulatory affairs before the commission. Additionally, the bill provides the Department of Law the same access to utility and pipeline carrier books and records to the same extent as had been previously allowed commission investigatory staff.

Prepared by: Kathryn A. Daughhete, Director Phone 465-3673
 Division Administrative Services Date/Time 3/1/04 5:01 PM
 Approved by: Kathryn Daughhotee for Gregg D. Renkes, Attorney General Date 3/1/2004
 Agency Department of Law

FISCAL NOTE

**STATE OF ALASKA
2004 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

BILL NO. HB 520

ANALYSIS CONTINUATION

Continuing in the spirit of Executive Order 111, the Governor's FY 2005 amended budget completes the transfer of responsibility and oversight for the regulatory public advocacy function by transferring the associated staff positions and adding additional interagency receipt authority to the newly created Regulatory Affairs Public Advocacy section in the Department of Law. Through the statutory changes proposed in this legislation, the new section shall be budgeted directly from the regulatory receipts rather than through an interagency transfer of funds. This fiscal note converts the receipts portion only but may require further amending to include the transfer of expenditure authorization and positions if the portion of the Governor's amended budget that would make that change is not adopted.

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Representative Bruce Weyhrauch

HOUSE DISTRICT 4



ALASKA
STATE CAPITOL
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Sponsor Statement

HB 520

HB 520, introduced by request of the Attorney General, deals with reimbursement by state agencies and the public advocacy role of the AG's office before the Regulatory Commission of Alaska (RCA).

I. Reimbursement

HB 520 exempts state agencies from reimbursing the Regulatory Commission of Alaska for commission costs in proceedings to which the state agency is a party. The commission has the power under AS 42.05.651 and AS 42.06.610 to allocate its costs for its proceedings among the parties to the proceedings "as is just under the circumstances." The commission takes that power a step to far by interpreting this statute to permit it to order state agencies appearing before its as parties to pay commission costs even though this point is not stated explicitly. This bill explicitly exempts state agencies from paying commission costs, but would not affect the commission's ability to require reimbursement from parties that are not state agencies.

The Administration believes that it is appropriate to exempt state agencies because allowing one state agency to order another agency to pay its costs provides no net fiscal benefit to the State of Alaska. In fact, the agency subject to the order expends resources to prepare and request an appropriation from the legislature to pay the commission and the legislature expends resources examining and acting on the request.

There are other reasons why state agencies should be exempt from payment. Requiring an agency to pay commission costs out of the agency's budget discourages agencies from filing cases or appearing as parties before the commission. The Department of Law (DOL) participates as a party in commission proceedings to protect the State of Alaska's interests as owner of its oil and gas resources. Under AS 42.04.070(c), the DOL, at the commission's request, may also participate when it is in the public interest for the attorney general to do so. Finally, under AS 44.23.020(e), the DOL may elect to participate as a public advocate for regulatory affairs before the commission.

The DOL considers the public interest involved and the efficient use of its limited resources when deciding whether to become a part to protect the public interest in a commission proceeding. The possibility that the DOL will be required to remit payments to the commission should not be part of that decision.

~ More ~

II. Public Advocacy by the AG before the RCA

Under AS 42.04.070(c) and AS 44.23.020(e), the Attorney General (AG) may participate as the public advocate for regulatory affairs before the commission. This bill would allow the AG or the AG's designee access to utility or pipeline carrier records necessary to carry out this public advocacy function in the same manner as commission public advocacy staff previously did when participating as a party in commission adjudicatory proceedings. Parties before the commission routinely submit expert testimony to support their positions. In certain cases, the DOL needs to contract with experts for a specialized analysis and testimony in order to fulfill its public advocate duty. The DOL has insufficient resources available to pay for such expertise. Therefore, this bill provides that a utility, pipeline carrier, or pipeline whose filing is the subject of an adjudicatory proceeding before the commission must pay the costs of experts retained by the DOL acting in its role as public advocate. This new provision is necessary in order to ensure that the rate-paying public is adequately represented before the commission. The bill takes an approach similar to that of the insurance code, where the director of insurance may retain professionals and experts as examiners, the reasonable cost of which shall be paid by the insurer being examined, under AS 21.06.140(d).

Finally, this bill clarifies that the general costs of public advocacy on matters before the commission will continue to be paid from the existing regulatory cost charge mechanism under AS 42.05.254 and AS 42.06.286.

Historically, personnel within the RCA performed advocacy on behalf of the public interest. Therefore, the cost of that advocacy was a part of the commission's budget funded by receipts from the regulatory cost charge. Executive Order 111, which went into effect on July 1, 2003, transferred the responsibility for public advocacy from the commission to the attorney general and established the public advocacy function within the Department of Law. Accordingly, commission personnel who were once responsible for public advocacy now act under the direction of the DOL. The bill amends existing statutes to expressly provide that regulatory cost charge receipts continue to pay the costs associated with the public advocacy function that is now administered by the DOL. It does not alter the regulatory cost charge mechanism in any way.

Contact: Linda Sylvester
465-4963

Released: February 23, 2004

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Representative Bruce Weyhrauch

HOUSE DISTRICT 4



ALASKA
STATE CAPITOL
JUNEAU, ALASKA
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Synopsis of HB 520

Generally:

- The bill results from the transfer of authority for public advocacy on utility matters before the Regulatory Commission of Alaska (RCA) under EO 111, which went into effect on July 1, 2003.
- Advocacy on behalf of the public interest was historically performed by personnel within the RCA, but EO 111 transferred that responsibility from the RCA to the Attorney General and established the public advocacy function within the Department of Law with the addition of AS 44.23.020(e). RCA personnel historically responsible for public advocacy now act under the authority and direction of the Department of Law.

Accordingly:

- HB 520 completes the prior transfer of authority by expressly providing for various aspects of its execution, as regards public advocacy and access to records.

Specifically, the bill would:

- Provide the Department of Labor with the same access to records formerly obtained by the RCA's public advocacy staff. *See secs. 4, 6, 10, 14, and 15;*
- Explicitly exempt state agencies (including Dept. of Law) from paying the costs of RCA proceedings to which the state agency is a party. *See secs. 5, 11, 12, and 13;*
- And provide for direct payment by the utility of the costs of expert assistance retained by the Dept. of Law to represent the public before the RCA. Utilities may recover the case-specific cost in the same manner as any other rate case expense. Payment of such costs by the utility ("cost-causer"), whose filing is the subject of an RCA proceeding, is an approach similar that of the insurance code (AS 21.06.140) where the cost of examiners retained by the director of insurance are paid by the insurer being examined. *See secs. 5, 11, 12, and 15.*

STATE OF ALASKA

FRANK H. MURKOWSKI,
GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF LAW
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

P.O. BOX 110300
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811-0300
PHONE: (907) 465-3600
FAX: (907) 465-2075

March 2, 2004

The Honorable Bruce Weyhrauch, Chair
House State Affairs Committee
State Capital, Room 102
Juneau, AK 99811

Re: HB 520 - Synopsis and Section by Section Analysis

Dear Representative Weyhrauch:

Thank you for scheduling a hearing on HB 520 relating to the expenses of investigation, hearing, or public advocacy before the Regulatory Commission of Alaska, to calculation of the regulatory cost charge for public utilities and pipeline carriers to include the Department of Law's costs of its public advocacy function, and to inspection of certain books and records by the attorney general when participating as a party in a matter before the Regulatory Commission of Alaska.

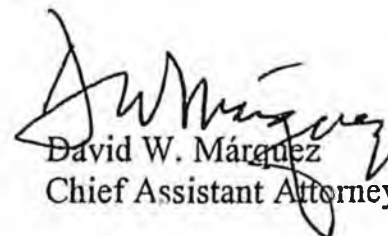
Attached is a synopsis of the bill and section by section analysis to aid the committee's hearing process.

If you need additional information, please contact me at 465-3600 or Assistant Attorney General Daniel Patrick O'Tierney at 269-5100.

Sincerely,

GREGG D. RENKES
ATTORNEY GENERAL

By:


David W. Marquez
Chief Assistant Attorney General

DWM:DEB:pvp

cc: Mike Tibbles, Legislative Director, Office of the Governor
Daniel Patrick O'Tierney, Assistant Attorney General

HB 520 Section by Section Analysis

Sections 1, 2, 3, 7 & 8: These sections clarify that the general costs of public advocacy for utility matters before the Regulatory Commission of Alaska (RCA) will continue to be paid from the existing regulatory cost charge mechanism under AS 42.05.254 and AS 42.06.286.

Advocacy on behalf of the public interest has historically been performed by personnel within the RCA. Therefore, the cost of that advocacy was a part of the RCA's budget funded by receipts from the regulatory cost charge, not from the general fund. Effective July 1, 2003, Executive Order 111 transferred the responsibility for public advocacy from the RCA to the attorney general and established the public advocacy function within the Department of Law (DOL).

These sections of HB 520 amend existing statutes to expressly provide that regulatory cost charge receipts will continue to pay the costs associated with the public advocacy function that is now administered by the DOL. These sections complete the transfer of authority by expressly providing for its execution as regards funding the DOL's public advocacy budget component. (Public advocacy funding is currently administered through a separate RDU within the RCA. It will be transferred from the DCED to DOL.) They do not change the regulatory cost charge mechanism.

Sections 4 & 9: These sections of HB 520 provide the attorney general with access to utility or pipeline carrier books and records when the attorney general participates in RCA dockets in a public interest advocacy role under AS 42.04.070(c) or AS 44.23.020(e).

Before the transfer of authority to the attorney general under Executive Order 111, public interest advocacy was performed by RCA staff, who had a statutory right to unfettered access to utility or pipeline carrier records in order to perform this function. AS 42.05.501; AS 42.06.440. Such access allows efficient and economical use of state resources to investigate public utility and pipeline carrier public interest issues that have been suspended by the commission for a comprehensive review and hearing. The need for efficient and economical access has not changed by transferring the responsibility of public interest advocacy to the attorney general. The amendments to AS 42.05.501 and AS 42.06.440 effectuate these goals.

Sections 6 & 10: These sections of HB 520 work in tandem with Sections 4 and 9 of HB 520. The amendments recognize that public utilities and pipeline carriers may need to request that documents obtained by the attorney general under the amendments contemplated by Sections 4 and 9 be held confidential from public disclosure under the Public Records Act. AS 40.25 *et. seq.* Sections 6 and 10 provide a vehicle for public utilities and pipeline carriers to do so, which request would then be reviewed by the commission for a good cause determination.

Sections 5 & 11: First, these sections explicitly exempt other state agencies from reimbursing the RCA for costs under AS 42.05.651 and AS 42.06.610 in proceedings to which the state agency is a party. Existent law does not expressly include or exclude state agencies from paying RCA costs. Allowing one state agency to order another state agency to pay its costs provides no net fiscal benefit to the State of Alaska. In fact, the agency subject to the RCA order expends resources to prepare and request an appropriation from the legislature to pay the RCA and the legislature expends resources examining and acting on the request. These sections would not affect the RCA's ability to require reimbursement from parties that are not state agencies.

Second, these sections require utilities, pipeline carriers, and pipelines to pay the specific costs of contract expert witnesses retained by the DOL when the attorney general appears on behalf of the public before the RCA. Parties before the RCA routinely submit expert testimony to support their respective positions. These sections provide that the party whose filing is the subject of an RCA adjudicatory proceeding shall make direct payment to the expert for the costs of any such expert retained by the public advocate to address the filing. This approach is similar to that of the insurance code, where the director of insurance may retain experts as examiners, the cost of which is paid by the insurer being examined under AS 21.06.140 and AS 21.06.160. Utilities may recover the case-specific costs in the same manner as any other rate case expense.

Sections 12 & 13: These sections amend the uncodified law to provide that specific provisions enacted by Sections 5 and 11 of this Act apply to RCA orders issued in related proceedings begun before the effective date of the Act and that those specific provisions are retroactive to May 30, 2003.

Section 14: This section amends the uncodified law to instruct the revisor of statutes to change the heading of AS 42.05.501.

Section 15: This section provides for an effective date of July 1, 2004.

Contact: Daniel Patrick O'Tierney
Senior Assistant Attorney General
for Regulatory Affairs
Office of the Public Advocate
State of Alaska Department of Law
907.269.5100
daniel_patrick_o'tierney@law.state.ak.us

HB 520: "An Act relating to the expenses of investigation, hearing, or public advocacy before the Regulatory Commission of Alaska, to calculation of the regulatory cost charge for public utilities and pipeline carriers to include the Department of Law's costs of its public advocacy function, to inspection of certain books and records by the attorney general when participating as a party in a matter before the Regulatory Commission of Alaska; and providing for an effective date."

SYNOPSIS

➤ Generally:

- the bill is necessitated by the transfer of authority for public advocacy on utility matters before the Regulatory Commission of Alaska (RCA) under last year's Executive Order 111.
- advocacy on behalf of the public interest was historically performed by personnel within the RCA. E.O.111 transferred that responsibility from the RCA to the Attorney General and established the public advocacy function within the Department of Law (DOL). AS 44.23.020(e). RCA personnel historically responsible for public advocacy now act under the authority and direction of the DOL.

➤ Accordingly:

- the draft bill completes the prior transfer of authority by expressly providing for various aspects of its execution, as regards public advocacy funding and access to records.

➤ Specifically, the bill would:

- provide the DOL with the same access to records formerly obtained by the RCA's public advocacy staff. *See* Sections 4, 6, 9, 10, 14 & 15;
- clarify that regulatory cost charge receipts (not general fund) will continue to pay for the general costs of public advocacy function now administered by the DOL, just as those receipts historically paid for public advocacy costs when the function was performed under the RCA. *See* Sections 1, 2, 3, 7, 8 & 15;
- explicitly exempt state agencies from paying the costs of RCA proceedings to which the state agency is a party. *See* Sections 5, 11, 12 & 13;

- and provide for direct payment by the utility of the costs of expert assistance retained by the DOL to represent the public before the RCA. Utilities may recover the case-specific cost in the same manner as any other rate case expense. Payment of such costs by the utility (“cost-causer”), whose filing is the subject of an RCA proceeding, is an approach similar that of the insurance code (AS 21.06.140) where the cost of examiners retained by the director of insurance are paid by the insurer being examined. *See* Sections 5, 11, 12 and 15.

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for Regulatory Affairs
Office of the Public Advocate
State of Alaska Department of Law
907.269.5100
daniel_patrick_o’tierney@law.state.ak.us

Introduced in the House: 3/5/03
Referred: Labor and Commerce, Judiciary

Introduced in the Senate: 3/6/03
Referred: Labor and Commerce, Judiciary

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 111

1 Under the authority of art. III, sec. 23, of the Alaska Constitution, I order the
2 following:

3 * **Section 1.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section
4 to read:

5 **FINDINGS.** As governor, I find that the transfer of certain responsibilities and
6 functions relating to advocacy on behalf of the public in matters that come before the
7 Regulatory Commission of Alaska from that agency to the attorney general would be in the
8 best interests of efficient administration. This transfer will assure that the authority of the
9 attorney general to determine and advocate for the nature and scope of the public interest in a
10 particular regulatory matter is properly acknowledged and implemented, and it will avoid
11 possible duplication of effort or the taking of inconsistent positions by separate agencies of
12 state government.

13 * **Sec. 2.** AS 42.04.070 is amended to read:

14 **Sec. 42.04.070. Powers and duties of commission chair.** (a) The chair of
15 the commission shall

16 (1) employ the commission staff;
17 (2) establish and implement a time management system for the
18 commission;

19 (3) assign the work of the commission to members and staff of the
20 commission so that matters before the commission are resolved as expeditiously and
21 competently as possible; when assigning a matter, the chair shall also set a date by
22 which time the matter should be completed.

23 (b) The chair of the commission may appoint a hearing examiner or an

1 administrative law judge to hear a matter that has come before the commission; a
 2 member of the commission may serve as hearing examiner or, if qualified, as an
 3 administrative law judge.

4 (c) The chair of the commission shall request [DIRECT] the attorney
 5 general [PUBLIC ADVOCACY SECTION] to participate as a party in a matter when
 6 the commission believes that it is in the public interest for the attorney general to do
 7 so.

8 * Sec. 3. AS 44.23.020 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

9 (e) There is established within the Department of Law the function of public
 10 advocacy for regulatory affairs. The attorney general shall participate as a party in a
 11 matter that comes before the Regulatory Commission of Alaska when the attorney
 12 general determines that participation is in the public interest.

13 * Sec. 4. AS 42.04.150 is repealed.

14 * Sec. 5. The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
 15 read:

16 TRANSITION. (a) Litigation, hearings, investigations, and other proceedings
 17 pending under a law repealed by this Order, or in connection with functions transferred by
 18 this Order, continue in effect and may be continued and completed notwithstanding a transfer
 19 or repeal provided for in this Order.

20 (b) Contracts, rights, liabilities, and obligations created by or under a law repealed by
 21 this Order, and in effect on June 30, 2003, remain in effect notwithstanding this Order's taking
 22 effect. Records, equipment, appropriations, and other property of an agency of the state
 23 whose functions are transferred under this Order shall be transferred to implement the
 24 provisions of this Order.

25 * Sec. 6. This Order takes effect July 1, 2003.

DATED: _____

 Frank H. Murkowski
 Governor

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Greg Berberich
President

James Rowe
Executive Director
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March 5, 2004

Rep. Bruce Weyhrauch
Chair
State Affairs Committee
Alaska State Legislature

RE: HB520 – Regulatory Commission of Alaska – In Opposition

Dear Rep. Weyhrauch:

On March 8 the State Affairs Committee is scheduled to take testimony on HB520, a bill relating to expenses of investigation, hearing and public advocacy before the Regulatory Commission of Alaska. The Alaska Telephone Association, representing fourteen rural local exchange telephone companies in the state, for the following reasons, strongly opposes this bill.

In an adjudicatory proceeding in which the attorney general participates as a public advocate, this bill would require the utility to pay for any experts used by the AG (§5d).

- The bill doesn't place any limits or checks on fees charged by the experts. Because the expert fee is paid by the utility, there is no incentive for the AG or the experts to control costs. In fact there is incentive for the AG to use more experts and for experts to inflate their costs because they know there is no check.
- The language in the bill uses the plural, "experts." With no incentive to hire only one expert, the costs passed on to customers could certainly increase the cost of doing business in Alaska.

It also protects any state agency from having to pay costs allocated to it by the Commission (§5c).

- If the payment of allocated costs by a state agency is questionable, perhaps the Commission is more likely to allocate those costs to the utility in which case the customer must pay.
- This legislation will increase utilities' costs and ultimately customers' rates.

I apologize to you and the committee for not being available to address our concerns and answer your questions in person. Prior commitments will have me out of state and unavailable by teleconference at that hour. Along with other ATA members, I will be in Juneau the week of March 15th and hope you will hold HB520 pending an opportunity for further discussion.

Sincerely,



Jim Rowe



AKPIRG

ALASKA PUBLIC INTEREST RESEARCH GROUP

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PO Box 101093 ♦ Anchorage, Alaska 99510-1093 ♦ Ph: (907) 278-3661 ♦ Fax: (907) 278-9300 ♦ email: akpirg@akpirg.org

To: House State Affairs Committee

Re: ~~House Bill 520 – Dept. of Law – Public Advocacy Function~~

Members of the Committee:

House Bill 520 will complete the transfer of the Public Advocacy Section of the (Regulatory Commission of Alaska) RCA, and incumbent duties, to the Department of Law. While there may be arguments as to whether this section is best place in the Dept. of Law, Executive Order 111 has been enacted. The best way to protect consumers is to make sure that this new section has at its disposal all the necessary methods to assure vigorous consumer protection.

The Dept. of Law should have the same access to records that was afforded to the RCA. This bill will provide for that and will also provide for the use of regulatory cost charge receipts to fund this section, as it did for the RCA.

HB 520 will also expand consumer protection efforts under this new section of the Dept. of Law by enacting direct payment by utility or pipeline carriers of expert witness costs retained by the Dept. of Law when representing the public before the RCA. This will enable the Dept. to vigorously pursue the interests of Alaskan consumers.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this bill.

Sincerely,

Steve Cleary
AkPIRG Executive Director

Alaska Telephone Association

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Greg Berberich
President

James Rowe
Executive Director
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April 13, 2004

Rep. Bruce Weyhrauch
Chairman, House State Affairs Committee
Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

APR 16 2004

RE: HB 520

Dear Rep. Weyhrauch:

As you are aware, the Alaska Telephone Association opposed **HB 520** as introduced earlier this session. We found it offensive that the fees of consultants retained by the Department of Law (DOL) in advocacy proceedings before the Regulatory Commission of Alaska would be paid directly by the utility involved in the proceeding. Such a policy lacked any incentive to minimize costs – all of which would have been passed on to customers. You have the thanks of this association for keeping that version of HB 520 in committee.

Over the past few weeks we have worked with the DOL to produce language that would be acceptable to us as a committee substitute for HB 520. We believe utilities and the public would benefit by the more pronounced degree of separation between the advocacy and adjudicatory arms of the regulatory process that this new language would provide. We would welcome the opportunity to offer testimony on this committee substitute before your committee.

Sincerely,



Jim Rowe