

2-9-88

Meeting

HOGUE AND LEKISCH

A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

437 "E" STREET, SUITE 500 • ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501-2366

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ANDREW E. HOGUE
PETER A. LEKISCH
DAVID S. JOHNSON
JOHN W. COLVER
DAVID W. RIDENOUR

February 11, 1988

Rep. H. A. (Red) Boucher
P. O. Box V
Capitol Building 421
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Rep. Boucher:

At Tuesday's committee hearing on cable television, I read into the record the testimony of Mr. Othmer Boeckman, the interim General Manager of Alaska West Cable Vision, Inc. The committee members requested that I forward a hard copy of that testimony. Enclosed for your information and review is a copy of Mr. Boeckman's testimony.

As I explained, Alaska West has applied to the APUC for a certificate to provide cable service to the Homer, Alaska area (Docket Nos. U-87-8/U-87-10). Alaska West committed itself to providing two dedicated channels for community and educational access, respectively, and intends to abide by that commitment whether or not the cable industry becomes deregulated or decertified. In our opinion, and considering the Homer community's strong desire for public access and the type of programming which Alaska West intends to offer, it is extremely important that we live up to our word however and whenever the regulatory environment changes.

Obviously, Alaska West is interested in the outcome of committee and legislative proceedings on these issues. We would appreciate receipt of any new or revised legislation -- including the expected substitute bill -- so that we may comment as deemed necessary.

Rep. H. A. (Red) Boucher
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Once again, both Mr. Boeckman and I appreciate the opportunity to provide the committee with Alaska West's comments and position.

Very truly yours,

HOGUE AND LEKISCH

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "D. S. Johnson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David S. Johnson

DSJ:djk
Enclosure

4018/21trb.028/dk

TESTIMONY OF OTHMER (OTT) BOECKMAN
ON BEHALF OF ALASKA WEST CABLE VISION, INC.

My name is Othmer (Ott) Boeckman. I am the interim general manager of Alaska West Cable Vision, Inc., which has applied for a certificate to provide cable television service in and around Homer, Alaska. My schedule prevented me from personally attending this hearing; therefore, I appreciate the opportunity to have this testimony read into the record.

I understand that this hearing will focus on the potential deregulation or decertification of cable television in Alaska and certain issues which may be of particular concern to the committee and the legislature. I would like to address one of those issues from the standpoint of Alaska West's application to serve the Homer community.

Before doing so, I will briefly describe the background of Alaska West, which is a relatively new player in the Alaska cable market. The corporation was formed in mid-1986 because community sentiment in Homer supported the construction (by Alaska West) of a state-of-the-art, professionally-managed cable system. We concluded that the Homer area would not only support but would welcome Alaska West's system as an entertainment and informational resource. In particular, we determined that the community would appreciate a utility which perceived a need for service, committed itself to providing that service, and fully intends to abide by that commitment should it receive a certificate. The Homer residents responded quite favorably to our proposal and our willingness to become an integral part of the community. This was highlighted during recently-concluded

hearings in Homer and before the Alaska Public Utilities Commission.

In particular, the subject of community and educational programming received considerable attention in Homer. In talking with numerous educators, programmers, and local representatives, we quickly realized that a strong, community-oriented dynamic exists in that community. The Homer residents are understandably excited about the prospects and benefits of two-way broadcasting hookups for use in schools, colleges, teaching facilities, libraries, civic functions, council meetings, and other events. They emphasized this precise issue during the hearing in Homer and in numerous original letters to the Commission.

For these reasons, Alaska West offered to provide two access channels: one dedicated exclusively to community use, and another dedicated for educational purposes. Alaska West strongly believes that public access in Homer will flourish in view of the channel availability which Alaska West will provide. Alaska West is committed to providing this degree of service in a manner consistent with its desire to become an integral part of the Homer community.

Alaska West further intends to provide this comprehensive access programming whether or not the cable industry becomes decertified. The argument has been advanced that cable operators will be less inclined to dedicate themselves to community access if and when decertification becomes a reality. That may well be the case for other operators whose

commitments and willingness to provide access are qualified, compromised, or subject to change. But speaking only for Alaska West, I can unequivocally state that Alaska West will stand by its dedication to public access in the form of the above-stated programming.

This concludes my testimony at this hearing. Thank you very much for the opportunity to express my views and the views of Alaska West.

I N D E X

A. OVERVIEW STATEMENT RE: HB 97

B. PUBLIC ACCESS STATEMENTS BY LOCATION

1. Ketchikan
2. Sitka
3. Petersburg
4. Wrangell
5. Cordova
6. Juneau
7. Valdez
8. Kodiak, Nome, Kotzebue
9. Seward
10. Anchorage
11. Fairbanks

MR. CHAIRMAN:

MY NAME IS LEE DANIHER, GENERAL MANGER OF ALASKA CABLEVISION. WE APPRECIATE THE OPPORTUNITY TO APPEAR BEFORE YOUR COMMITTEE TODAY. AFTER MEMBERS OF OUR INDUSTRY HAVE MET WITH YOUR STAFF, WE THINK IT LIKELY THAT THE CONCERNS WHICH PROMPTED THIS HEARING COULD WELL BE ALLEVIATED WITHOUT THE PASSAGE OF "RADICAL SURGERY" LEGISLATION, WHICH WE FEEL HB 97 DOES INDEED REPRESENT.

TO PUT EVERYTHING IN PERSPECTIVE, WE NOW HAVE HIGH QUALITY CABLE TELEVISION SERVICE AVAILABLE IN VIRTUALLY EVERY COMMUNITY IN ALASKA WITH POPULATIONS OF OVER 1,000. MANY, MANY SMALLER COMMUNITIES ARE ALSO SERVED BY OPERATORS AS WELL. BY ALL INDICATIONS IT WOULD SEEM FAIR TO SAY THAT THE QUALITY OF SERVICE IN ALASKA IS VERY HIGH. VARIETY OF PROGRAMMING IS WIDE-RANGING AND OPERATIVES ARE FINANCIALLY SOUND AND TECHNICALLY CAPABLE. ALL IN ALL, ALASKANS ARE SERVED QUITE WELL BY THE CABLE INDUSTRY AS WE NOW KNOW IT; UNDER ITS CURRENT REGULATORY SCHEME.

WE HAVE CONTACTED THE A.P.U.C. TO SEE IF THEY HAVE RECEIVED A LARGE NUMBER OF CONSUMER COMPLAINTS ABOUT CABLE TELEVISION. THERE SEEMS TO BE LITTLE INDICATION OF WHOLESALE DISSATISFACTION. TO QUOTE SENATOR FAHRENKAMP FROM A SENATE LABOR AND COMMERCE HEARING ON THE SAME SUBJECT LAST SESSION, "IT APPEARS LIKE THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO FIX SOMETHING THAT AIN'T BROKE."

AS WE UNDERSTAND IT, THERE SEEMS TO BE TWO RATHER COMPETING REASONS FOR OUR INDUSTRY TO BE HERE BEFORE YOU TODAY.

ONE, THE CONCERN THAT WE ARE NOT PROVIDING ADEQUATE PUBLIC/COMMUNITY ACCESS TO THE COMMUNITIES WE SERVE AND TWO, THAT SOME

CABLE CERTIFICATE HOLDERS ARE NOT COMPLYING WITH FULL REGIONAL SERVICE REQUIREMENTS OF THEIR CERTIFICATES -- I.E., NOT YET COMPLETING INSTALLER'S SCHEDULES -- WHERE SUCH SCHEDULES HAVE BEEN REQUIRED BY THE A.P.U.C.

LET US BRIEFLY DISCUSS FIRST THE CONCERN ABOUT PUBLIC/COMMUNITY ACCESS. WE, AS AN INDUSTRY, CERTAINLY BELIEVE IN MAKING OUR FACILITIES AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC AND COMMUNITY USE. THE VAST MAJORITY OF PEOPLE WHO RUN THE CABLE COMPANIES THROUGHOUT THE SYSTEM ARE LONG TIME RESIDENTS OF THOSE TOWNS WHO BELIEVE IN AND PARTICIPATE IN THEIR OWN COMMUNITIES. LET US SAY THAT WE WHOLEHEARTEDLY SUPPORT THE CONCEPT AND ALREADY ARE INVOLVED IN SUCH PROGRAMS ALL OVER THE STATE. IF THERE IS MORE WE CAN DO, OR SHOULD BE DOING -- WE ARE MORE THAN HAPPY TO SIT DOWN WITH WHOMEVER IS APPROPRIATE AND DISCUSS THAT NEED.

AS YOU WILL NOTE, WE HAVE COMPLETED A BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE STATUS OF PUBLIC/COMMUNITY ACCESS THROUGHOUT THE STATE. YOU WILL FIND COMMUNITY BY COMMUNITY COMMENTS IN THE BOOKLETS WHICH WE PREPARED FOR TODAY'S HEARING. SHOULD YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ON FURTHER DETAIL, HOPEFULLY WE HAVE SOMEONE HERE TODAY WHO CAN ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS -- OR WE WILL CERTAINLY GET AN ANSWER TO THE COMMITTEE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

LET US DISCUSS FOR A MOMENT WHAT IS APPARENTLY THE SECOND MAJOR CONCERN WHICH HAS BROUGHT US BEFORE YOU TODAY.

THAT IS: THE CONCERN THAT THERE ARE AREAS ON THE STATE WHERE A CERTIFICATE WAS AWARDED TO A CABLE OPERATOR BY THE A.P.U.C., THE A.P.U.C. THEN PUT CONDITIONS ON THAT AWARD FOR CERTAIN GEOGRAPHIC AREAS TO BE WIRED WITHIN A GIVEN TIME PERIOD AND THE OPERATOR HAS

FALLEN BEHIND SCHEDULE -- THEREBY DEPRIVING A PORTION OF A COMMUNITY OF CABLE TELEVISION SERVICE.

FIRST OFF, AS I'M SURE YOU COULD UNDERSTAND, SOME DIFFICULTY NOW EXISTS FOR A CABLE OPERATOR TO EVEN OBTAIN FINANCING (GIVEN THE ECONOMIC SITUATION IN ALASKA -- ESPECIALLY OUR LARGER COMMUNITIES) TO FINISH THE JOB OF EXTENDING CABLE ON OUT TO WHAT ARE MOST CERTAINLY LESS ECONOMICALLY VIABLE NEIGHBORHOODS. THIS, AT A TIME WHEN ONE MUST STRING THAT CABLE PAST ROW ON ROW OF EMPTY HOMES AND APARTMENT BUILDINGS WITH 'FOR SALE' SIGNS ATTACHED.

NONETHELESS, A MECHANISM NOW EXISTS UNDER CURRENT LAW AND A.P.U.C. REGULATION FOR THAT COMPANY TO BE BROUGHT BEFORE THE A.P.U.C.; TO SHOW WHY THEIR CERTIFICATE SHOULD NOT BE REVOKED OR ALTERED. FURTHERMORE, SHOULD SOME OTHER NEW OPERATOR BE WILLING TO SERVE THE AREA WHICH HAS NOT YET RECEIVED CABLE, THE A.P.U.C. HAS THE AUTHORITY TO REMOVE THE CERTIFICATE FOR THAT SPECIFIC AREA FROM THE ORIGINAL HOLDER AND AWARD IT TO TO THE NEW OPERATOR.

BECAUSE ONE IS OPERATING IN A QUASI-JUDICIAL SITUATION, THE RUB COMES THAT ACTION BY A NEW POTENTIAL OPERATOR CAN BE EXPENSIVE -- AND PERHAPS PROHIBITIVELY SO TO A NEW, SMALL COMPANY WISHING TO GET STARTED.

BECAUSE OF THESE ABOVE MENTIONED CONCERNS, WE UNDERSTAND WE (ALASKA CABLE OPERATORS) ARE BEFORE YOU TODAY TO DISCUSS HB 97 -- A SOMEWHAT RADICAL CHANGE IN HOW THE CABLE INDUSTRY IS NOW OPERATED. IF YOU'LL PARDON OUR INPERPRETATION, WE THINK THE BILL MAY BE A CONSIDERABLE OVERREACTION TO THE CONCERNS WHICH APPARENTLY BROUGHT ABOUT THIS HEARING.

BOTH FURTHER EMPHASIS OF PUBLIC ACCESS BY CABLE OPERATORS AND VIOLATION OF CERTIFICATE REQUIREMENTS FOR FULL SERVICE-AREA COMPLIANCE ARE WITHIN THE CAPABILITIES AND POWERS OF THE A.P.U.C. TO NOW ADDRESS -- UNDER CURRENT LAW. ONE OF THE PROBLEMS SEEMS TO COME DOWN TO THAT OF THE BUDGET FOR THE A.P.U.C. THEIR BUDGET CONTINUES TO SHRINK. AS THIS OCCURS, QUITE NATURALLY THEY BEGIN TO PRIORITIZE THEIR WORKLOAD. THE TYPES OF CONCERNS RELATED TO CABLE TELEVISION WHICH WE ARE HERE TO DISCUSS TODAY, FALL OFF THE PRIORITY LIST IN COMPARISON TO REGULATION POWER AND TELEPHONES AND GAS LINES. IF THE A.P.U.C. HAD AN ADEQUATE BUDGET, THEY WOULD BE IN A POSITION TO PRESS FOR MORE PUBLIC ACCESS (WHERE NEEDED OR NOT YET PROVIDED) AS WELL AS ENFORCE THEIR CERTIFICATE REQUIREMENTS ON CURRENT CERTIFICATE HOLDERS (WHO HAVE ABUSED IT).

AS TO THE PROBLEM OF MAKING IT EASIER FOR SOME NEW OPERATOR TO COME IN AND PROVIDE CABLE SERVICE TO AN AREA NOT YET SERVED, IT WOULD SEEM THAT SOME CREATIVE THINKING MIGHT BE PUT TO NEW REGULATIONS BY THE A.P.U.C. WHICH WOULD REDUCE THE COSTS OF SUCH EFFORTS -- SOME NEW FAST TRACK PROCESS WHICH WOULD NOT ONLY PROVIDE SERVICE TO THOSE AREAS NOT YET SERVED BUT WOULD ALLEVIATE ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL BURDEN TO THOSE NEW COMPANIES TRYING TO SERVICE SUCH AN AREA.

SINCE HB 97 IS ONCE AGAIN UP FOR DISCUSSION TODAY, WE WOULD LIKE TO TAKE A FEW MOMENTS TO REMIND THE COMMITTEE OF THE NUMEROUS PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH THAT APPROACH. LAST SESSION, AS YOU WILL REMEMBER, THIS COMMITTEE SPENT MAY HOURS GOING THROUGH THEM BUT IT MIGHT BE WORTHWHILE TO REFRESH YOUR MEMORIES.

HB 97 WOULD TOTALLY REMOVE THE A.P.U.C. FROM ANY ROLE AS REGARDS CABLE TELEVISION. THE IDEA WOULD BE THAT CABLE WOULD NOW SIMPLY OPERATE OUT IN THE ECONOMY LIKE ANY OTHER BUSINESS. ON THE FACE OF IT, IT SOUNDS WONDERFULLY SIMPLE. THE PROBLEM IS, CABLE IS NOT JUST ANY BUSINESS. ONCE ONE STARTS TO REVIEW LIKELY IMPLICATIONS, ONE HAS TO AGAIN WONDER WHY A SYSTEM WHICH IS WORKING WELL NOW SHOULD BE THROWN INTO SUCH POTENTIAL DISARKAY?

THE FOLLOWING ARE A NUMBER OF THE MAJOR DIFFICULTIES WHICH CAN BE SEEN TO INDICATE THAT CABLE TELEVISION IS UNIQUE AND CERTAINLY FITS SOMEWHERE IN THE NATURE OF A UTILITY AND YET IS NOT A NECESSITY LIKE TELEPHONE AND POWER.

CABLE T.V., UNLIKE "ANY OTHER BUSINESS," USES MANY OF THE SAME CORRIDORS BOTH ABOVE AND BELOW GROUND AS DO TELEPHONE AND POWER UTILITIES. YOU MAY REMEMBER THAT COMMISSIONER WEATHERLY, OF THE A.P.U.C., IN HIS TESTIMONY LAST SESSION (COMMISSIONER WEATHERLY IS NOW RETIRED FROM THE A.P.U.C.) STATED THAT ALL OVER ALASKA WHERE UTILITY CORRIDORS INVOLVE USE OF A POLE SYSTEM THERE IS ALREADY DIFFICULTY FINDING ADEQUATE SPACE FOR PLACEMENT OF EVEN ONE CABLE SYSTEM ALONGSIDE POWER AND TELEPHONE. HIS POINT WAS THAT IF THE INTENTION OF HB 97 IS TO CREATE A SITUATION WHERE TWO CABLE COMPANIES ARE OPERATING AND COMPETING ALONGSIDE EACH OTHER -- RIGHT OFF THERE ARE IMMENSE PRACTICAL PROBLEMS WITH ITS APPLICATION. OF COURSE, POLES COULD BE ALTERED OR REPLACED -- ALBEIT AT GREAT COST TO ALL UTILITY COMPANIES AND THEN DIRECTLY BACK TO ALL ALASKAN CONSUMERS/RESIDENTS.

SECONDLY, THERE IS THE PROBLEM OF WHAT IS CALLED "CREAM SKIMMING." THROUGHOUT THE STATE CABLE OPERATORS (FOLLOWING A

COMPETITIVE BIDDING PROCESS BETWEEN INTERESTED COMPANIES) HAVE BEEN GRANTED AUTHORITY BY THE A.P.U.C. TO PROVIDE CABLE SERVICE WITHIN A GIVEN SERVICE AREA. AS PART OF THE CONDITIONS OF SUCH CERTIFICATION IT HAS BEEN COMMON PRACTICE FOR THE A.P.U.C. TO REQUIRE A COMPANY TO SERVICE AN ENTIRE AREA NOT JUST THE HIGH DENSITY -- HIGH REVENUE - LOW COST AREAS OF A COMMUNITY.

THESE SYSTEMS ARE NOW VIRTUALLY ALL IN PLACE. SHOULD HB 97 BECOME LAW AND SHOULD SOME OTHER CABLE OPERATOR BE ABLE TO FIND POLE SPACE TO OPERATE ON, THERE WOULD BE NOTHING PREVENTING THAT NEW SECOND OPERATOR FROM "SKIMMING" THE HIGH REVENUE PORTION OF A TOWN LIKE JUNEAU AND NOT PROVIDE SERVICE, SAY TO NORTH DOUGLAS - ONLY DOWNTOWN OR IN THE VALLEY.

THIS, IN TURN, WOULD SET UP A SITUATION WHERE THE FIRST COMPANY WOULD BE COMPETING IN AN UNEVEN MARKET. ULTIMATELY, THE PRESSURES WOULD LEAD TO LARGE INCREASES IN RATES TO THE OUTLYING -- LOW REVENUE AREAS OF A COMMUNITY AND EVENTUALLY NO SERVICE AT ALL. THE TWO COMPETING COMPANIES WOULD SIMPLY OPERATE HEAD TO HEAD WHERE THE REVENUES ARE HIGHER AND COSTS ARE LOWER. EVENTUALLY, WE WOULD PROBABLY END UP WITH ONE COMPANY SERVING ONLY THE LUCRATIVE PARTS OF THE COMMUNITY.

THIRDLY, WHEN IT COMES TO THE ISSUE OF PUBLIC ACCESS -- IT IS THE A.P.U.C. THAT REQUIRES SUCH SERVICE FROM CABLE COMPANIES IN ALASKA. IF HB 97 WERE TO PASS, THE A.P.U.C. COULD NO LONGER REQUIRE SUCH SERVICE. A COMPANY FIGHTING FOR SURVIVAL AGAINST WHAT WOULD AMOUNT TO A NEW COMPETITOR WITH A CONSIDERABLE ADVANTAGE, WOULD CERTAINLY BEGIN

TO LOOK AT PROVIDING FREE CHANNELS AND FREE EQUIPMENT AS SOMEWHAT OF A LUXURY.

THERE IS ALSO THE PROBLEM OF QUALITY CONTROL. ONE OF THE BENEFITS TO ALL CONSUMERS AND TO MANY SMALL COMMUNITIES IS THE AVAILABILITY OF A.P.U.C. EXPERTISE IN REVIEWING THE QUALITY AND TECHNICAL CAPABILITY OF COMPANIES PROPOSING TO PROVIDE CABLE SERVICE. BECAUSE OF THE SEMI-UTILITY NATURE OF CABLE, MANY UNSUSPECTING COMMUNITIES COULD BE SIMPLY TAKEN FOR A RIDE BY AN UNSCRUPULOUS OR POORLY QUALIFIED OR UNDER-FINANCED OPERATOR. IN THIS SCENARIO, CUSTOMERS COULD END UP WITH VERY POOR QUALITY OR NO CABLE TELEVISION SERVICE AT ALL. SUCH A PROBLEM COULD BECOME QUITE COMMON IN ALASKA'S SMALLER COMMUNITIES.

FINALLY, WE WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A COMMENT ABOUT THE CONCEPT OF COMPETITION, WHICH SEEMS TO UNDERLIE THE ENTIRE CONCEPT OF HB 97. A VERY NARROW DEFINITION OF COMPETITION IS BEING USED AND ONE WHICH DOES NOT FIT WITH MY SERIOUS REVIEW OF CABLE TELEVISIONS ROLE IN SOCIETY. HB 97 SEEMS TO ASSUME THAT THE ONLY WAY TO ESTABLISH COMPETITION FOR A CABLE COMPANY IS FOR ANOTHER CABLE COMPANY TO OPERATE RIGHT ALONGSIDE IT. SUCH ANALYSIS IGNORES THE FACT THAT CABLE OPERATORS ARE ALREADY OPERATING IN A COMPETITIVE SITUATION WITH:

- MYRIADS OF HOME VIDEO STORES OFFERING THEIR WARES AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO CABLE TELEVISION.

- DIRECT SATELLITE DISH USERS BOTH IN SINGLE DWELLINGS, AND IN MANY PLACES IN ALASKA FOR ENTIRE APARTMENT COMPLEXES AND HOTELS.

- FREE - OFF THE AIR TELEVISION, WHICH MANY PEOPLE IN ALASKA ALREADY VIEW AS SUFFICIENT FOR THEIR NEEDS - PERHAPS IN COMBINATION WITH A VIDEO MACHINE.

CABLE TELEVISION, IN THE BROADER SENSE, IS COMPETING OUT THERE FOR THE CONSUMER'S ENTERTAINMENT DOLLAR -- THEATRES, RESTAURANTS, YOU NAME IT. IF CABLE T.V. BECOMES TOO EXPENSIVE OR OF INSUFFICIENT QUALITY TO ATTRACT A CONSUMER, THAT CONSUMER WILL SIMPLY SELECT ONE OF THE COMPETING FORMS OF ENTERTAINMENT OF THEIR PREFERENCE. THAT IS THE COMPETITIVE CHECK ON CABLE TELEVISION WHICH IS ALREADY IN PLACE.

FURTHERMORE, HB 97 BRINGS ABOUT THE PROSPECT OF MUNICIPAL REGULATION OF CABLE TELEVISION IN THE ABSENCE OF A.P.U.C. OVERSIGHT. IN PAST YEARS, THE A.P.U.C., ESPECIALLY COMMISSIONER GUESS HAVE VOICED GREAT CONCERNS OVER THE HISTORY OF MUNICIPAL REGULATION OF CABLE ELSEWHERE IN THE COUNTRY. PERHAPS THE COMMISSIONER COULD BE ASKED ABOUT THOSE CONCERNS.

WE AGAIN APPRECIATE THE OPPORTUNITY TO STATE OUR CASE BEFORE YOU AND HOPE WE CAN ANSWER ANY FURTHER QUESTIONS YOU MIGHT HAVE.

THERE ARE A NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN FAIRBANKS AND ANCHORAGE WHO WISH TO TESTIFY. SOME OF THEM MAY BE ABLE TO PROVIDE FURTHER DETAIL AS WELL.

THANK YOU.



COOKE
CABLEVISION INC.

February 4, 1988

Dawson & Associates
326 4th Street
Suite 203
Juneau, Alaska 99801

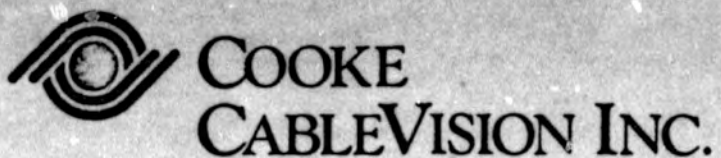
Dear Sirs,

Enclosed is a listing of the services available to the public thru our local access channel. We have been using this channel for at least seven years, and have had good response to our offering. We have in the past also loaned out our equipment to local churches and a few individuals to use for the community interest.

If you should have any further questions regarding this public access channel please give our office a call.

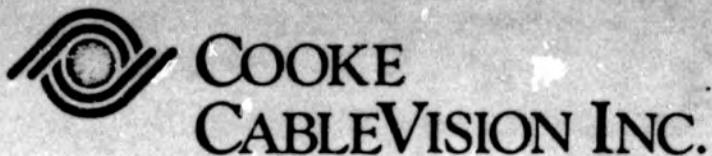
Cooke CableVision

Marcella Leslie
Marcella Leslie
Office Manager



PUBLIC ACCESS CHANNEL COOKE CABLEVISION --KETCHIKAN

1. CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS 2 MEETINGS MONTHLY PLUS ANY SPECIAL MEETINGS
2. BOROUGH MEETINGS 2 MONTHLY
3. LEGISLATIVE MEETINGS FROM THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER
4. CANDIDATE FORUM
5. COMMUNITY INTEREST TAPES
6. CLOSED CIRCUIT EVENTS
7. EASTER SEAL TELETHON
8. YOUTH FOOTBALL AUCTION
9. MARCH OF DIMES TELETHON
10. MDA TELETHON
11. LOCAL LIVE BOWLING



February 3, 1988

Sitka's Local Access Channel

When the studio was built here in Sitka in 1980 there was a great deal of community demand for time on the Local Access channel, channel 13. At the time we did a daily half-hour news program, the Chamber of Commerce did several interviews each week and several other agencies made use of the channel time.

During the eight years that we have made available the studio and the channel to the residents of Sitka the usage has dwindled to the point that now there are only two events aired. One is the Jerry Lewis Telethon and the second is the March of Dimes Auction.

When the usage of the channel started to decline a large effort was spent trying to increase public awareness of the availability of the channel but to no avail.

The channel and the use of the two camera fully equipped studio is still available.

Sincerely,

Dennis Lanham
Dennis Lanham
General Manager

/dl



CableVision

JANURARY 28, 1988
ALASKA CABLEVISION
BY: BETTY PHILBIN

ALASKA CABLEVISION HAS EIGHT T.V. SYSTEMS IN ALASKA.
WRANGELL, PETERSBURG, SEWARD, VALDEZ, NOME, KOTZEBUE, KODIAK, AND CORDOVA.

ALL OF OUR SYSTEMS HAVE A CHANNEL WITH A CHARACTER GENERATOR THAT IS FREE TO THE PUBLIC FOR ITEMS OF PUBLIC INTEREST. (LOST & FOUND, SCHOOL ACCTIVITIES, CITY NOTICES, CHURCH ACTIVITIES, FUNERAL NOTICES, ETC... IT IS USED MANY TIMES DAILY BY ALL IN OUR COMMUNITIES. THIS SAME CHARACTER GENERATOR IS USED FOR CLASSIFIED ADS SO THERE IS A WIDE PUBLIC INTERESTED OF ALL ITEMS. (HAVING ONLY A WEEKLY PAPER IN ALL BUT ONE OF OUR SYSTEMS, THIS CHANNEL IS THE ONLY DAILY PRINTED MEANS OF PUBLIC NOTICES AND NEWS.

ALASKA CABLEVISION SYSTEMS ARE MANAGED BY COMPETENT PEOPLE THAT HAVE LINED IN THEIR COMMUNITIES A LONG TIME AND ARE INVOLVED IN VARIOUS COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES. THEY ARE TUNED IN AND LOYAL TO THEIR COMMUNITIES NEEDS AND DESIRES AND ARE PREPARED, WHEN THE NEED AND DESIRE IS THERE TO SUPPLY THE NECESSARY SPACE FOR MORE COMMUNITY ACCESS.



Cablevision

PETERSBURG COMMUNITY USE CHANNELS
BY: BETTY PHILBIN, MANAGER

PETERSBURG CABLEVISION HAS A CHARACTER GENERATOR, BACK WITH AUDIO FROM KTKN RADIO ON CHANNEL 11. THIS CHANNEL IS USED FOR CLASSIFIED ADS AND FOR COMMUNITY USE. WE CHARGE FOR CLASSIFIED, BUT PUT ON LOST & FOUND AND PUBLIC NOTICES FREE OF CHARGE. WITH ONLY A WEEKLY PAPER IT IS USED DAILY BY THE MANY ORGANIZATIONS IN OUR COMMUNITY.

APPROXIMATELY THREE YEARS AGO WE FELT THAT THE COMMUNITY COULD USE A DEDICATED CHANNEL. WE PUT IN EQUIPMENT IN THE SCHOOL LIBRARY AND ADVERTISED ITS AVAILABILITY FOR PUBLIC USE. ALTHO I DONATED MY TIME AND PUT SEVERL SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS ON, IT WAS USED ONLY TWICE BY ANYONE ELSE. IT REMAINED AVAILABLE FOR ALMOST TWO YEARS AND REMAINED BLACK SO EQUIPMENT WAS REMOVED. OUR SCHOOL IS ONLY THREE BLOCKS FROM MAIN STREET, BUT WE WOULD LIKE TO REINSTATE A DEDICATED CHANNEL IF WE CAN FIND A LOCATION ON MAIN STREET FOR OUR EQUIPMENT. I AM IN THE PROCESS OF WRITING TO THE CITY COUNCIL FOR PERMISSION TO INSTALL OUR EQUIPMENT IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS. IF PERMISSION IS GRANTED, WE WOULD LIKE TO BROADCAST LIVE COUNCIL , PLANNING & ZONING, FISHERIES, AND OTHER MEETINGS OF INTEREST TO THE PUBLIC.

THE CITY OF PETERSBURG IS NOT LARGE ENOUGH TO HAVE ANY ONE CHANNEL DEDICATED FOR ONE PARTICULAR USE, SCHOOL, GOVERNMENT, OR CHURCH, BUT SHOULD BE ABLE TO BENEFIT BY A COMBINED CHANNEL.

WRANGELL CABLEVISION

P.O. BOX 909 — WRANGELL, ALASKA 99929
(907) 874-2392

* * * WRANGELL PUBLIC SERVICE CHANNELS * * *

Character - Generated message - Channel 11
(Locally known as the SCANNER)

- * 40 words per ad, 29 spaces, 12 lines down.
- * Ad will run a minimum of 3 times per hour, 24 hours a day.
- * Ad may run as long as a week.

Public notices include the following:

- Meeting notices
- Lost -N- Found
- To give away
- Public awareness
- School activities
- Birthday/Anniversaries
- Wedding announcements
- Birth announcements
- Funeral announcements
- Thank yous
- Community activities
- Church services and activities
- Teleconferences

Local Videos

We air these on our character-generator channel. Run time is also advertised on character generator days in advance.

The following videos have been shown:

- School plays and programs
- Tent City Days (a Wrangell festival)
- 4th of July Festival
- S.A.D.D. tape made by Wrangell High School students

(We have done some taping for such programs, this depends on the timing and availability of the camera)

We also have automatic insertion gear set for channel 12 (CNN NEWS), and are able to play a public tape if correct format and toned properly.

CableVision

1/25/88

Dear Betty,

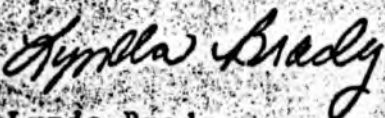
Per your request, I reviewed our Public Service Scanner (character generated advertising) advertising we gave to the citizens of Cordova.

In 1987 we ran \$4,259.64 worth of Public Service Ads. In 1986 we ran \$4,501.46 worth of Public Service Scanner Ads. This is completely seperated and above the Scanner Ads that generate revenue for Cordova Cablevision.

We have the equipment ready to install a "local access channel" but have not completed the project. The main concern in this area is that all of our equipment is Beta and 95% of the equipment used by the townspeople is VHS. There are other considerations we have not worked through yet ie: sensorship, timing etc., but we are moving ahead in these areas.

If you need further information or back up please just let me know and I'll do all I can to help you.

Sincerely,



Lynda Brady
Office Manager

BONNEVILLE

INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS

October 12, 1987

Bob Pearson, AK Dist. Engineer
McCaw Cablevision
3161 Channel Drive Suite 1
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Bob:

Thank you for your recent coverage of the Semiannual World General Conference of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Bonneville Media Communications is pleased to provide you with the enclosed audio cassette of the world-renowned Mormon Tabernacle Choir as a token of our appreciation.

Through your gracious contribution of air time, you have provided a valuable viewing experience for many people in your market.

Bonneville looks forward to working with you again next spring on the occasion of the 158th Annual World General Conference.

Sincerely,

Ailsa F. Williams

Ailsa F. Williams
Marketing Representative

Enclosure

First Church of Christ, Scientist

430 MAIN STREET
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801

October 18, 1987

Bob Pearson
Cooke Cablevision
3161 Channel Drive
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Mr. Pearson,

The members of our church would like to thank you for helping us receive the transmission of the Global Lecture Preparatory Meeting from the headquarters of the Christian Science Church in Boston, Massachusetts, on Thursday, September 24, 1987. We viewed the program from a room at Centennial Hall and the reception was excellent.

With the new technology in communication, Alaskans need to feel "cut off" no longer. It was wonderful to know that we were receiving the information at the same time the rest of the world was.

We are sure that satellite communication will be used by our church in the future, as well as by a growing number of other groups. We look forward to working with you again when the opportunity arises.

Thank you again for your help and cooperation.

Sincerely,

Beverly Krusz

Beverly Krusz
Clerk

Box 020993
Juneau, Alaska 99802
10 December 87

Jim Uebelher *Cor.*
Cooke Cablevision
Juneau

Dear Jim:

Thank you and your staff for pulling down our October 24 program. We had gathered over 100 people in small groups in living rooms for this program designed for small-group discussion. We don't know how many people watched at home, by themselves.

It was a successful program, resulting in the dialogue we all need as we try to learn how to survive in this nuclear age.

Thank you again for your help. It's modern technology and social diversity at its best.

Sincerely,

Bill Leighty
William C. Leighty
Beyond War volunteer

P.O. Box 1748, Juneau, Alaska 99802

alaska folk
festival inc.

Hello!

The use of your video link was a vital part in KTOO-FM's LIVE coverage of the 13th Annual Alaska Folk Festival.

Many thanks have been extended by the many emcees, and many more are extended now.

It's the cooperation between us all that makes it a pleasure to live here in Juneau!

Sincerely,
JEFF BROWN
President Emeritus
Alaska Folk Festival

CableVision

January 22, 1988

Petersburg Cablevision
Post Office Box 1167
Petersburg, AK 99833

Atten: Betty

Thought I'd confirm what we briefly spoke about today regarding a "public access channel" in Valdez. It is my understanding that with a system smaller than 1000 subs, such as ours, it is not required that we have available a specific public access channel. In any case, Valdez Cablevision has always welcomed the opportunity to work with those organizations or persons interested in broadcasting special events, psa's or would just like to learn how the system works and our procedures. Presently, what the public has available to them is Channel #11, our mini-scan character generator channel. We do have the space available for one particular channel, however, it has not yet become necessary. Channel #11 is a popular channel in my community when looking for special events, advertisements, psa's, etc. So provided the proper tape cassette size and equipment are available for whatever particular event or notice, utilizing channel #11 has worked very well.

In the past we have worked in conjunction with the video department at Prince William Sound Community College in bringing in the high school basketball games played outside of Valdez. We've also shown tape delayed "Meet The Candidates Night" a question and answer session with political candidates running for local office. Currently every Friday evening at 4:30pm we show a 1/2 hour psa regarding animal rights. This spring we will be joined by two college students twice weekly to experience and learn the cable industry and what we offer. Should at any time in the future there be a more demand for public access, we would gladly and willingly make available another channel.

Give me a call if there is more I can share in detail.

Sincerely,



Debbie Daniels
Office Manager

cc: File



CableVision

JANUARY 30, 1988

COMBINED REPORT ON NOME, KOTZEBUE, SEWARD & KODIAK
COMMUNITY USE CHANNELS.

KODIAK HAS AN ACCESS CHANNEL USED AND CONTROLLED BY THE
COMMUNITY COLLEGE. VARIOUS COMMUNITY AND COLLEGE TAPES &
PROGRAMS OR AIRED ON THIS CHANNEL. THEY MAKE USE OF THEIR
CHARACTER GENERATOR FOR PRINTED MESSAGES.

SEWARD IS A NEW SYSTEM AND HAS TWO CHANNELS FOR PUBLIC USE.
THEY WERE ABLE TO AIR THEIR FIRST COUNCIL MEETING THE WEEK OF
JANUARY 25.

NOME AND KOTZEBUE, AT PRESENT ARE USING THEIR CHARACTER
GENERATOR CHANNEL FOR ANY REQUEST FOR MESSAGES, BOTH PRINTED AND
TAPED.

CableVision

January 26, 1988

Kent Dawson
326 Fourth St Suite 203
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Kent;

This letter is in response to the information you requested for Miss Stewart concerning locally originated programming, e.i. public access channel.

The cable system in Seward was constructed new in the spring of 1987. The entire system was designed and built for complete 2-way cable activity. This allows us to insert locally originated programming at any location in the cable system; which in turn enables our subscribers to view that programming "live".

At present, we have allotted channel 11 to be our public access channel. Any public service announcements, school activities or community functions are presented in script form and run 24 hours per day. In addition to public service announcements, this channel space is also made available for private individuals as well as for businesses to advertise for a very moderate fee.

As for our "live" productions, we currently broadcast the Seward City Council meetings at no charge to the city. In conjunction with this, we have shown public service tapes to the community regarding "Enhancement Plans" and other revitalization programs designed to bolster Seward. The Forest Service is going to provide tapes that are community service oriented to be shown on channel 11, at again, no cost.

We have also developed a plan to get the High School more directly involved in the community. This plan includes a separate channel for their own school oriented activities. We will provide them with a graphic, character generator and encourage a locally produced news program aimed at involving students with the community.

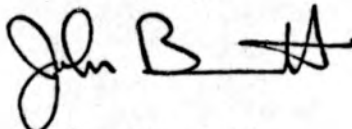


CableVision

Discussions with School Administrators and City officials have generated alot of enthusiasm for this program. We have initiated the plan and hope to have it implemented as soon as possible.

We feel we have the start of what will be one of the finest community involved access programs. If you would like more information or updates as programs are implemented, please let us know.

Sincerely,



John Burnett

JB/mh

CITY OF SEWARD

P.O. BOX 167
SEWARD, ALASKA 99664



- Main Office (907) 224-3331
- Police (907) 224-3338
- Harbor (907) 224-3138
- Fire (907) 224-3445
- Telecopier (907) 224-3248

February 8, 1988

V. KENT DAWSON, PRESIDENT
DAWSON & ASSOCIATES
326 Fourth Avenue
Mendenhall Bldg., Suite 407
Juneau, AK 99801

SEWARD CABLEVISION

John Burnett of Seward Cablevision has asked that I confirm some of the many public interest and community-oriented programming and services provided by his company.

Beginning with tonight's Council meeting, Seward Cablevision will be airing all regular City Council meetings live and free of charge. Cablevision has provided all equipment and will provide the personnel to make this programming possible. In addition, we have been assured that other public groups may use the equipment installed in the Council Chambers to film and broadcast public hearings, speakers, etc.

The Chamber of Commerce has already taken advantage of Cablevision's offer to film public meetings and had Burnett tape a Chamber meeting regarding a proposed Seward Downtown Enhancement Plan. This has been aired at no cost to the Chamber or the community.

The Forest Service has been granted permission to show any tapes in its possession which it deems to be public service oriented.

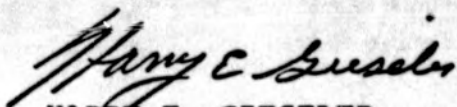
A program has been initiated with Seward High School to involve students in the community through live productions, taped events (sports, concerts, plays, etc.) and community fund-raising activities. Burnett has offered to coordinate a media class at the High School which would be "for credit" and would give students "hands on" experience in writing, directing, editing and airing its own programming.

Please call on me if you need any additional information concerning the city of Seward's experiences with Seward Cablevision.

Sincerely,

V. KENT DAWSON
February 8, 1988

THE CITY OF SEWARD, ALASKA



HARRY E. GIESELER
MAYOR

cc: John Burnett, Seward Cablevision

SONIC CABLE TELEVISION OF ALASKA, INC.

ACCESS CHANNELS

In Anchorage, Sonic Cable Television of Alaska provides the following access channels to its subscribers and the community.

1. THE COMMUNITY CHANNEL

This channel is devoted entirely for community use. It is designed to meet the needs of the local community by letting people produce programming for themselves. This includes video recording and editing of an entire television production which is then aired on Sonic Channel 19. The Sonic community channel office has three complete sets of camera gear and an editing system provided to local producers for production and completion of their ideas.

The Community channel also cablecasts live, the Anchorage Assembly meetings on Tuesdays. These programs are rebroadcast every Friday.

Additionally, a portion of the channel is dedicated to Korean Programming. This program is cablecast three times weekly for the Anchorage Korean population.

Also on Sonic's community channel is the Community Calendar which is a vehicle for non-profit organizations to advertise their events. It is comprised of a series of characterized generated messages.

2. THE CREDO CHANNEL

This channel provides access to church groups. The channel is operated by the Credo Task Force of the Church Council of Anchorage. The committee members represent various denominations and their goal is to facilitate the airing of local religious programming on the cable system. The channel is open to all recognized religions.

3. CABLE CLASSROOM

This channel is available for Anchorage School District programming. Educational programming is aired daily Monday through Friday. On evenings and weekends, the School Bulletin Board is cablecast for all area schools.

4. ANCHORAGE TELECAMPUS

The University of Alaska, Anchorage utilizes this channel for students who wish to receive college credit at home. Various courses in different fields of study are cablecast throughout Anchorage.

ACCESS CHANNELS CONT:

5. INET - INSTITUTIONAL NETWORK

The INET is an excellent example as to how cable technology can best be used by organizations who serve the public. It is indicative of Sonic's desire to provide communication and the public good in the Anchorage area. The channel is reserved for use by the Anchorage School District, the Municipality of Anchorage, The University of Alaska, Anchorage, Humana Hospital, Providence Hospital, and the Alaska Area Native Health Services. This consortium of users specifically utilizes the INET Channel for internal and external communications and training.



COOKE CABLEVISION INC.

February 5, 1988

Mr. Kent Dawson
Dawson & Associates
326 4th Street
Suite 203
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Kent,

Fairbanks Cooke Cablevision has one channel dedicated to use for local programming. It is channel 2, the channel that the converters "turn on" to. When not being used for local programming a character generator with sound from a local FM station is there. The character generator has local community activity announcements, public service announcements, and announcements of special programs on it.

Examples of programming include:

- * Alaska weather - not shown off air received from RATNET at 7 pm each week day evening.
- * Special RATNET programs - Karate, Yukon 800, Dog Mushing, etc.
- * Saturday February 6, 1988 we will air the Kubler Ross interview on Death and Dying - The Grief process and AIDS the Ultimate Challenge.
- * When the Pope visited last year we aired the EWTN (Catholic Cable Network) for 10 days, 24 hours per day.
- * We aired the 3 hour Jewish New Year Satellite delivered program last year.
- * We air "Music and the Spoken Word", a weekly LDS half hour program.
- * We air the LDS General Conferences.



COOKE CABLEVISION INC.

We recently completed a "return line" from the UAF Rasmussen Library studios, and will start airing the Tanana Valley College "Cable College" later this month. This will be 4 hours per week night of courses.

The channel is not used to the extent that there is any demand for a second channel, however if demand warrants we will make another channel available. We are committed to supporting local programming.

On another subject, you may hear about a Mr. Steve Gerstein who has applied to the APUC to serve an area known as Lakloey Hills and another area known as South Cushman, both within our service area. Lakloey Hills is unserved and we have no objection to Mr. Gerstein serving this area. South Cushman is partially served now and will be completely served by Cooke Cablevision by May 1, 1988 and we do object to Mr. Gerstein serving this area. Mr. Gerstein was the low bidder and was offered a contract to build and serve the UAF campus. He did not execute the contract. We therefore have doubts that he intends to serve Lakloey Hills. We suspect that his APUC application is for the purpose of drawing objections from us and creating a big-guy/little guy situation to gain support for HB 97. We are not objecting to his service in an unserved area. These are brief comments Kent. I plan to be present in Fairbanks at Tuesday's teleconference.

Best Regards,

A.J. Novius
Systems Manager

xc: Ross Hammock

ALASKA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

COMMENTS ON HB97

February 9, 1988

In the performance reviews of the Commission in 1979 and 1985, the Division of Legislative Audit recommended that the Commission's statute be amended to cease certification of CATV service. The exemption proposed in HB97 would effect this long-standing recommendation.

The Commission supports HB97 primarily because it is undesirable as a matter of policy to certificate entities as de facto monopolies which are not subsequently economically regulated. In addition, the Commission has identified CATV certification as an area where its workload can be reduced to more closely match its current resources with minimal adverse impact on the public.

In endorsing this legislation, the Commission offers the following suggestions. First, it would be desirable to add a definition of cable television service to the Commission's statute to make it clear what precisely is being deregulated. At present, the statute includes only one general definition for telecommunications service. There is more and more integration and sophistication in telecommunications functions and services. It is assumed that the intent of HB97 is to exempt CATV service only insofar as it is an entertainment medium and not to the extent it may become an integral part of local or long distance telephone service. Including a definition in the statute would eliminate any confusion about the scope of the exemption for CATV service.

Second, there are currently 22 CATV companies operating in Alaska. It would be desirable to have the Legislature address what its intentions are with respect to disposition of certificates held by existing providers. In addition, in a number of cases certificates have been awarded to CATV companies with express conditions attached, and the status of those conditions could be unclear absent legislative intent. For example, under the exemption, would existing public access and institutional network requirements still apply, and, if so, who would be responsible for enforcing compliance with those requirements?

February 9, 1988

Testamony before Alaska House Special Committee on Telecommunications

By: Brother Charles McBride, C.S.C.
CREDO Task Force
Interfaith Council of Anchorage

225 Cordova, Bldg. A
Anchorage, AK 99501

907-258-7898

Chairman Boucher and members of the committee:

I am Brother Charles McBride, C.S.C., chairman of the CREDO Task Force of Sonic Cable Television of Alaska's CREDO Channel 36, an ecumenical public access channel for the people of Anchorage and Eagle River, Alaska. The Task Force is appointed to regulate the use of this channel by the Interfaith Council of Anchorage (formerly Church Council of Anchorage) and Sonic Cable Television of Alaska as outlined by the Alaska Public Utilities Commission.

Last March I had the opportunity to testify before this committee on House Bill 97, which was introduced on February 2, 1987. Last year our Task Force was opposed to this bill as well as the companion bill, Senate Bill #92 introduced by Senator Lloyd Jones.

The churches of Anchorage /Eagle River have worked for close to six years to provide public access religious programming to the subscribers of Multivisions Cable and now Sonic Cable of Alaska. The CREDO Channel has served the needs of over 20 church groups in presenting some 50-hours per week of programs produced or chosen by local church groups. The channel operates 24 hours a day.

We firmly believe that the CREDO Channel 36, as well as the other public access channels on the Sonic system, have access due to the leadership and commitment of the Alaska Public Utilities Commission to provide public access channels in areas where there is a public demand. Anchorage is certainly one of those areas. We would oppose deregulation of cable systems in Alaska because it would be a very clear threat to the existence of the CREDO Channel as well as the other public access channels.

Presently in the Lower - 48 there is being formed the Vision

Interfaith Network, which will include between 18-24 mainline religious groups. This network is being formed by TCI of Denver, one of the nation's largest cable systems, to force off the cable systems many of the 24-hour religious telecommunications services as well as local religious access channels. Many of the national church communications' leaders feel that religious access has all but dried up in many markets. Many oppose the Vision network because it will give cable companies opportunities to drop some of their religious programming. I give this as an example of cable companies not being interested in either local input or local access.

Alaska, and Anchorage in particular, is unique in that we have educational, government, public, and religious access channel available and in use. What we have is a real treasure for the people of Anchorage and something we would not want to risk losing through deregulation of cable companies. Last year Marty Robinson, General Manager of Sonic Cable said that if Sonic had to operate with potential head to head cable competition in a state of deregulation it is likely some or all of the public access channels protected by the Alaska Public Utilities Commission would be eliminated.

Professionally, I am the Director of Communications for the Catholic Archdiocese of Anchorage as well as treasurer of the National Catholic Association for Communicators. I am well aware of the difficulties my fellow workers in communications are having in areas where deregulation is present. When attending national meetings, they are astounded at what we have available to us. They are also delighted to hear the interest the Alaska Public Utilities Commission has had in providing for public access.

I want to publicly thank Sonic Cable of Alaska and the Alaska Public Utilities Commission for what they have done for the CREDO Channel. It is a marriage between a government agency, public enterprise, and local churches that has been working for the past six years.

The CREDO Task Force will in the near future write to all of the members of the House and Senate, as we did last year, on our position, that of opposing House Bill 97 and Senate Bill 92.

Thank you for your time and consideration.