

ALASKA LEGISLATURE COMMITTEE FILES, 2003-2004 8672

10791 HOUSE JUDICIARY

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.ak.us';

> 'Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.state.ak.us';

> 'Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us';

> 'Representative_Jim_Yolm@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.s
""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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Dear Kevin Meyer,

May 13, 2003

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,

Kevin 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 competition 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 disappointed 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 Illinois State Legislature to let you see how they have dealt 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.

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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 our 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.state.ak.us>, "Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.state.ak.us" <Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.state.ak.us>, "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.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.state.ak.us>

CC: "Representative_John_Coghill@legis.state.ak.us" <Representative_John_Coghill@legis.state.ak.us>, "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.ak.us>

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 competition, 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.state.ak.us>
"Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.state.ak.us" <Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.state.ak.us>
"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.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.state.ak.us>

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 than 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 its 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.state.ak.us>
"Representative_Dan_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us" <Representative_Tom_Anderson@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.us>,
"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.state.ak.us>

CC: "Lt_Governor@gov.state.ak.us" <Lt_Governor@gov.state.ak.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 to compete on an equal and level playing field. Every day I process orders for a competitor that receives a substantial discount and manipulates 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 fair 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
> incumbent LEC (ACS) which by the 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 to feed off under the guise 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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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 possess 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 degregation 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



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 IIB 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



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:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Urgent	Date sent: 5/15/03
<input type="checkbox"/> For Review	Time sent:
<input type="checkbox"/> Please Comment	Number of pages including cover page: 1
<input type="checkbox"/> Please Reply	

Message:

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



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: 5/16/03
 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



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
pwr98cat@aol.com

Lesli 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

Judiciary Committee:

Lesil McGuire

Tom Anderson

Dan Ogg

Jim Holm

Ralph Samuels

Les Grara

Max Gruenberg (also my State Representative-go Max!!!)

Very Important!

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 true 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

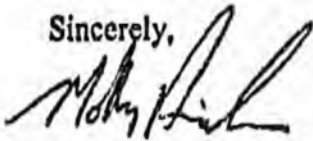
Rep. Lesil McGuire

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 HB1111 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 telecommunicallons 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, THEREFORE 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



8301 SCHOON ST • SUITE 200 • ANCHORAGE, ALASKA • 99518
(907) 522-3931 • FAX (907) 522-3757

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.state.ak.us>, "Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.state.ak.us" <Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.state.ak.us>, "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.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.state.ak.us>

> 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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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: 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 a company 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.state.ak.us>
"Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.state.ak.us" <Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.state.ak.us>
"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.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.state.ak.us>

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 losing 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

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

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 ccompanies 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 Alaska.

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 its survival. First, ACS is forced to lease lines to its 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 its 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 its 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.state.ak.us>
"Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us>
"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.state.ak.us>
"Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.state.ak.us" <Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.state.ak.us>

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 competition 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 commission 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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speak with the message sender. In addition, please immediately delete this
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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.state.ak.us>, ""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.state.ak.us>, ""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.state.ak.us>, ""Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.state.ak.us" <Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.state.ak.us>

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.state.ak.us>

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 the 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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Fwd: RCA

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 providers 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 competition is great, but subsidizing one company at the expense of others is not only absurd, it is punitive, unfair, and restrictive to those companies and the customers they service. It is hindering 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 amendments.* Thank you, Matthew Callahan

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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.state.ak.us>, ""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.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.state.ak.us>

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.state.ak.us>
"Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.state.ak.us" <Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.state.ak.us>
"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.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.state.ak.us>

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 ploy. 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 INTEGRITY. 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.state.ak.us>, "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.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.state.ak.us>, "Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.state.ak.us" <Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.state.ak.us>

> 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 competitive 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 fourth 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
> competitive 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.state.ak.us>
"Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.state.ak.us" <Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.state.ak.us>
"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.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.state.ak.us>

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-datacommunications 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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