

ALASKA LEGISLATURE COMMITTEE FILES, 2003-2004 86/2

10793 HOUSE JUDICIARY

May 15, 2003

Judiciary Committee:

Lesil McGulre

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 Syc St.  
Anchorage, AK 99502

May 15, 2003

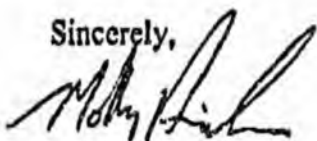
Rep. Lesil McGuire

Dear Rep. Lesil McGuire,  
Subject: HB 111

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

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

Sincerely,



Molly Aichner  
One of the many Alaska Communication Systems employees

Representative Lesil McGuire,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



# ALASKA STATE HOMEBUILDERS ASSOCIATION

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

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

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

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

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

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

NOW, 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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> the addressee. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby  
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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.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\_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\_Max\_Gruenberg@legis.state.ak.us" <Representative\_Max\_Gruenberg@legis.state.ak.us>**

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 loosing battle for ACS and is not fair. It does nothing for the public and does nothing for our company.

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

**Subject: HBIII WITH AMENDMENTS**

**Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 14:38:58 -0800**

**From: "Leah Merritt" <leah@ctcak.net>**

**To: <Representative\_Lesil\_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us>**

I support HB III with amendments!

Leah Merritt  
Cordova, AK 99574

**Subject: HB111**

**Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 15:00:38 -0800**

**From: "McCullough, Shawn" <smccullo@acsalaska.com>**

**To: "Representative\_Lesil\_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us" <Representative\_Lesil\_McGuire@legis.stat**

Dear Ms.McGuire

> I am writing to ask that you fight for the AMENDMENTS to  
 > HB111. These amendments insure that fair competition will finally begin in  
 > the telecommunication's industry here in Alaska. I fear that if these  
 > amendments do not get voted in that the company I work for ACS will not be  
 > in business in the near future. I believe that there will be layoffs and  
 > many good paying jobs will be lost. This is not what Alaska needs. We need  
 > more jobs with good pay and benefits. I feel that the RCA has been coerced  
 > into a one sided effort in the telecommunication's industry. The main  
 > competitor GCI has been given a free ride for seven years. While ACS is  
 > subsidizing their only competitor. Is this Really the competition that  
 the  
 > fed.'s wanted ? I think that now that GCI has a very big percentage of the  
 > market that they should have to pay for it. Why let GCI get their way  
 again  
 > with the RCA. They are the only ones to gain in this effort to pass the  
 RCA  
 > with out the amendments. The public will only feel the loss of maintenance  
 > on the lines that serve both Gci and ACS customers. So far to date there  
 has  
 > been no benefit to the customer in this so called Competitive market. The  
 > same lines that served them before are still in use but getting older and  
 > older. Who will pay to replace them in the future GCI?  
 > I Highly doubt this. GCI needs to step up to the plate and earn their  
 market  
 > share.  
 >  
 > Please support this issue.  
 > Shawn McCullough

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**Subject:** HB 111

**Date:** Thu, 15 May 2003 15:17:16 -0800

**From:** chstiver@alaska.net

**To:** Representative\_Lesil\_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us

Hello,

I'm concerned about HB 111 not just as an employee of ACS, but also as a consumer. I want it pass w/ amendments.

I can't get dsl where I live at in Anchorage & am stuck w/ dialup unless I want to pay GCI for cable tv to get a decent price for cable Internet which can't be used for much downloading due to the low monthly bandwidth allotment. ACS will never be able to upgrade any of the lines in my area, & also lots of other areas of Anchorage, when they spend all that money just to have lease the lines out to GCI at a much lower rate. If a company can't make a profit on investmerts, they aren't going to make those investments. That's not real fair for me as a consumer. There's lot lots of customers stuck on slow dialup connections due to old phone lines or service too far away to get faster dsl over phone lines & we're never going to get it unless some company invests in the phone lines. GCI would never invest lots of money in phone lines just to let someone else lease those same lines for so much less than they invested money in.

Please take this into account when you consider this bill.

thank you,

robert stiver

Please support amendments in HB111.

**Subject: Please support amendments in HB111.**

**Date:** Thu, 15 May 2003 15:55:58 -0800

**From:** "Dan Crowson" <trapperdan@hotmail.com>

**To:** Representative\_Lesil\_Mcguire@legis.state.ak.us

**CC:** Representative\_Tom\_Anderson@legis.state.ak.us

Dear Chairmens;

I'm a ACS telephone installer/repairman. I have worked for ATU, now ACS, 11 years. I now need your help! HB 111, without it's amendments, will bankrupt my company, ACS.

We need these 3 amendments;

1) Deprecation - GCI is allowed to depreciate their equipment in 12 years, ACS is required to wait 30 years! Not fair or level playing field.

2) Bundling - Currently, GCI can use 1 customer service agent for all its services, we at ACS are required to transfer our customers to 5 different service reps.

3) Universal Fund - GCI gets \$10.00 for every line, to build new infrastructure. No new telephone cable has been buried anywhere in Anchorage.

In conclusion, GCI made millions last year, on Anchorage customers. ACS lost millions. Please support amendments in HB 111.

Thank you for your time, Dan Crowson

Dan Crowson Pobox 870066 Wasilla, AK 99687 373-7674

Phy; 1460 E Patty Dr. Cell 240-6653

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<http://clinic.mcafee.com/clinic/ibuy/campaign.asp?cid=3963>

**Subject: HB111**

**Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 14:56:25 -0900**

**From: "Michael Henschman" <farnorth@usa.com>**

**To: Representative\_Lesil\_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us**

Dear Representative McGuire:

I am a 25-year Fairbanksan who is very concerned about the recent "telecom wars" between ACS and GCI. As you and your fellow committee members are currently working on the HB111 issue, I am compelled to add my voice to those persons who are supporting the effort to pass this bill \*with the amendments\* that correct the economic inequities between competitive local exchange carriers (CLEC), primarily GCI, and incumbent carriers like ACS.

For the record, I am not opposed to telecom competition; not in its truest business sense. It is clear to me, however, that CLECs survive by leasing networks that have become advantageous for them to use, in terms of the below-cost access they receive. And this situation is perhaps no worse than right here in Alaska, wherein the RCA has clearly gone beyond the call of duty in consistently setting policy which favors GCI far above what is reasonable to ensure fair competition. I have also been both disturbed and offended by the tone of GCI's campaign to discredit ACS as a "monopoly", when GCI clearly is doing so because it is attempting to protect its over-weighted advantage.

These are the disparities I find most objectionable, but this is not an exclusive list:

1. The FCC has guidelines that suggest depreciation should be accelerated to approximately 15 years, to spur investment in new telecom technology as it develops, yet ACS has its hands tied with a 30-year depreciation factor. GCI is allowed a much shorter period of 12 years, less than half of ACS.
2. GCI clearly holds a monopoly on cable TV and can charge whatever it wishes. ACS is forbidden to enter the cable TV market itself, or to resell GCI's signal, and has its rates set by the RCA. And GCI can subsidize their phone rates with profits from their cable TV monopoly, while ACS, as a regulated carrier, cannot subsidize its phone rates with any deregulated activity.
3. ACS receives a federal subsidy per rural line to offset the cost of installing and maintaining service in remote areas. When GCI leases one of those ACS lines to serve its customer, the RCA has mandated that GCI can receive that subsidy - even though ACS is required to continue maintenance on that line, an even deeper subsidization of GCI than already guaranteed by its apparent protector, the RCA. It's like being forced to let my neighbor drive and wear out my car, for a pittance, while I am required to pay for gas and repairs. This is patently unfair.

Ultimately, the inability of incumbent carriers to equitably recoup costs associated with leasing their lines and equipment, along with the requirement that they must open any new facilities which they build to such unbalanced competition, means that investment and development is stymied. It is already happening with large carriers in the Lower 48, who are at less of a clear disadvantage than is ACS at the hands of the RCA. When this happens, consumers lose.

I strongly urge you to allow TRUE and FAIR competition to flourish. This means that HB111 should pass with its amendments, so that the competitive telecom arena is rebalanced. If allowed to continue unabated, the current RCA policy will have a deleterious effect on local service in larger communities, and it will most certainly have a disastrous effect on remote communities, for whom it will eventually become too expensive to serve when the CLECs do not have to pay to incumbent carriers the true costs associated with those customers.

Sincerely,

Michael Henschman  
Fairbanks

HB111

455-6434  
farnorth@usa.com

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<http://www.mail.com/?sr=signup>

**Subject: HB111**

**Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 16:24:18 -0800**

**From: jon.bowne@acsalaska.net**

**To: Representative\_Lesil\_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us**

Representative McGuire,

Please do not fall for the disingenuous rhetoric that GCI is publishing and broadcasting statewide. The RCA consistently has given GCI unfair advantage over ACS. I believe in competition, but on a level playing field.

--ACS is mandated to build out, operate and maintain the telephone network infrastructure from which GCI is allowed to lease lines at below ACS cost.

--After leasing dial tone from ACS, GCI can charge whatever they wish for that service. ACS must sell their own service at the established regulated rate.

--GCI can subsidize their phone service with monies from their cable telephone monopoly, or from any other source. ACS cannot subsidize regulated telephone service from any other source, period! GCI can; ACS cannot.

--GCI can bundle services (i.e. cable TV, Wireless, Internet) to make an attractive marketing package. ACS cannot add a deregulated service to any marketing bundle. GCI can; ACS cannot.

--ACS receives a federal subsidy per rural line to offset the cost of installing and maintaining service in remote areas. When GCI takes an ACS customer, the RCA has mandated that GCI can receive that subsidy - even though ACS is required to continue maintaining those lines.

--The communications industry is changing rapidly; equipment bought today can be obsolete in five years or less (FCC guidelines are ten years; current reality is five). RCA mandates that ACS must depreciate its equipment on a thirty-year schedule. It says that GCI can depreciate its equipment on a twelve-year schedule.

--ACS is forced to lease its plant to GCI at below cost. Neither ACS nor anyone else is allowed to lease any part of the GCI cable television network.

--There is no point at which GCI stops receiving special treatment. They have over fifty percent of the local Anchorage market right now. They can go to 100% and all their special privileges stay in place.

Can a reasonable person honestly say that these rules and restrictions are fair? They are a disincentive to growth and expansion and, while bad for the industry in general; they have a disproportionately adverse effect on the most remote customers. I hope you recognize the damage that the RCA has done to the telecommunications business in Alaska. Pass HB111 with the amendments in place and allow all parties fair, market driven competition.

Thank you for your kind attention.

Jon Bowne  
460-1532 (work)  
451-7469 (home)

**Subject: HB 1111**

**Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 20:39:33 -0400**

**From: Uptilnow@aol.com**

**To: Representative\_Lesil\_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us,  
Representative\_Tom\_Anderson@legis.state.ak.us, Representative\_Dan\_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us,  
Representative\_Jim\_Holm@legis.state.ak.us,  
Representative\_Ralph\_Samuels@legis.state.ak.us, Rpresentative\_Les\_Gara@legis.state.ak.us,  
Representative\_Max\_Gruenberg@legis.state.ak.us**

May 15, 2003

Dear Honorable Representatives,

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

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

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

Why would ACS raise it Local and/or Business Customer Rates by \$100 million annually? 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

**Subject: HB 111 WITH AMENDMENTS**

**Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 16:48:50 -0800**

**From: "Clark, Susan" <sclark@acsalaska.com>**

**To: "Representative\_Lesil\_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us" <Representative\_Lesil\_McGuire@legis.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: "Larsen, Robert" <rlarsen@acsalaska.com>**

Dear Representatives McGuire, Anderson, Ogg, Holm, Samuels, Gara and Gruenberg;

Thank you for your dedication in serving the citizens of Alaska. I write today to enlist your support for passing HB 111 WITH the Amendments. I am an employee at ACS. I work as a Customer Service Representative. I have worked here for 9 and 1/2 years. Customer Service is what I have done in one form or another for the past 38 years.

When I was younger, I thought about being a Doctor, a Nurse, a Teacher or a Lawyer. I got OJT training in all those fields as a parent and by working as a Bartender, a Cab Driver, a Cab Dispatcher and finally a Customer Service Representative in the Telecommunications industry in Anchorage Alaska. When I went to work for the phone company I received extensive (three months) training in the unique language of Telephony. However, the best preparation I had for providing Customer Service came from the years I spent tending Bar, driving a Cab, and dispatching Cabs (I really enjoyed telling the other drivers where to go). What I learned from all my years of working in those SERVICE industries was that my customers would only be my customers if I was able to provide the best customer service. My market could get those services from any place. They could order a bottle of beer or a Perrier from any bar. They could catch a ride in any flavor of Cab, and they could call any Cab company besides the one I worked for to arrange that ride. So what separated the Bar, or the Cab Company I worked for from all the rest? Customer Service! The playing field was pretty equal, and in NONE of those fields, did my competitors have the advantage of my company having to subsidize them to promote competition. By providing the best customer service, I was able to maintain a strong customer base. That kept my jobs and allowed me to raise three children as a single mom.

We need the RCA to be brought under control. We need to assure the citizens of Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Juneau (and I'm sure other markets in the future) that they will have choices. To me, that means that one company should not be forced to subsidize the cost of another company doing business. The competition needs to be in the arena of customer service. As long as ACS is forced to resell our facilities for less than it costs us to maintain them, with the result that GCI can forego customer service and just be "the cheapest telephone company in town", we do not have a level playing field. There is nothing to put the competition where it belongs which is in the arena of Customer Service.

I can make a great telephone. I can even repair that telephone. But I can't sell that telephone for less than it costs me to make it and still be here when somebody asks for a telephone. Please help level the playing field and pass HB 111 with the amendments that will do that. It's time GCI started competing on my level. They should have to try to provide real service, like I do. They should have to take care of customers, like I do. They should have to pay for the cost of doing business, like I do.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sue Clark.

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

**Subject:** HB111 W/Amendments

**Date:** Thu, 15 May 2003 18:18:43 -0800

**From:** "Perry & Jeannie Carter" <akstuf@acsalaska.net>

**To:** <Representative\_Lesil\_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us>

Thank you for continuing to support HB111 W/Amendments.

Perry Carter  
Anchorage, Ak

5-15-03

( Kevin Meyers

Please support HB 111 with  
amendments to ensure an  
open & fair competition to  
Alaskans -

FORREST CHARLTON

Box 113929

Anch AK 99511

5-15-03

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Kevin Meyers

Please support HB 111 with  
amendments to ensure an  
open & fair competition to  
Alaskans -

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Regina Charter

Box 112929

Anch AK 99511

5-15-03

KEVIN MEYERS

Please support HB 111 with  
amendments to ensure an  
open + fair competition to  
Alaskans -

CAM CHARLTON

Box 112929

Anch AK 99511

5-15-03

House Judiciary Comm.  
McGuire

Please support HB 111 with  
amendments to ensure an  
open & fair competition to  
Alaskans -

FORREST CHARLTON

Box 112929

Anch AK 99511

Deanna C. Borgen  
P.O. Box 244555  
Anchorage, AK 99524

TO: ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE  
ATTN: House 24 Cheryl Heinze.

SUBJECT HB 111

Hi my name is Deanna Borgen I have worked in the Telecommunications industry for many years. I feel my job security, retirement and my family's well being and futures are at risk. If the amendments for HB 111 are not kept in place I may lose my job.

When House Bill 111 as amended passes all Alaskan telecommunications consumers will have competition for the first time, and competing companies will have the same set of rules on a level playing field.

Please as a voter, I encourage you to represent my family and myself when you cast your VOTE on this important legislation. Please Support HB 111 and all its critical Amendments.

Thank you  
Deanna C. Borgen

May 13, 2003

Dear Bob Lynn,

I understand HB 111 is in danger of being stripped of all of its amendments. I am writing to ask that you work to pass HB 111 with all of its amendments intact. This is crucial because if HB 111 passes without these amendments my job security + retirement are in jeopardy.

Respectfully,

Laurie Mack

6860 O'Malley  
Anchorage, AK 99507

May 13, 2003

Dear Kevin Meyer,

I understand that HB 111 is in danger of being stripped of all its amendments.

I am writing to ask that you work to pass HB 111 with all of its amendments intact. This is crucial because if HB 111 passes without these amendments my job security + retirement are in jeopardy.

Respectfully,

Kevin Mack  
6860 O'Malley  
Anchorage, AK 99507

**Subject: HBIII WITH AMENDMENTS**

**Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 14:38:58 -0800**

**From: "Leah Merritt" <leah@ctcak.net>**

**To: <Representative\_Lesil\_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us>**

I support HB III with amendments!

Leah Merritt  
Cordova, AK 99574

**Subject:** HB111

**Date:** Thu, 15 May 2003 15:00:38 -0800

**From:** "McCullough, Shawn" <smccullo@acsalaska.com>

**To:** "Representative\_Lesil\_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us" <Representative\_Lesil\_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us>

Dear Ms.McGuire

> I am writing to ask that you fight for the AMENDMENTS to  
> HB111. These amendments insure that fair competition will finally begin in  
> the telecommunication's industry here in Alaska. I fear that if these  
> amendments do not get voted in that the company I work for ACS will not be  
> in business in the near future. I believe that there will be layoffs and  
> many good paying jobs will be lost. This is not what Alaska needs. We need  
> more jobs with good pay and benefits. I feel that the RCA has been coerced  
> into a one sided effort in the telecommunication's industry. The main  
> competitor GCI has been given a free ride for seven years. While ACS is  
> subsidizing their only competitor. Is this Really the competition that  
the  
> fed.'s wanted ? I think that now that GCI has a very big percentage of the  
> market that they should have to pay for it. Why let GCI get their way  
again  
> with the RCA. They are the only ones to gain in this effort to pass the  
RCA  
> with out the amendments. The public will only feel the loss of maintenance  
> on the lines that serve both Gci and ACS customers. So far to date there  
has  
> been no benefit to the customer in this so called Competitive market. The  
> same lines that served them before are still in use but getting older and  
> older. Who will pay to replace them in the future GCI?  
> I Highly doubt this. GCI needs to step up to the plate and earn their  
market  
> share.  
> Please support this issue.  
> Shawn McCullough

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**Subject: HB 111**

**Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 15:17:16 -0800**

**From: chstiver@alaska.net**

**To: Representative\_Lesil\_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us**

Hello,

I'm concerned about HB 111 not just as an employee of ACS, but also as a consumer. I want it pass w/ amendments.

I can't get dsl where I live at in Anchorage & am stuck w/ dialup unless I want to pay GCI for cable tv to get a decent price for cable Internet which can't be used for much downloading due to the low monthly bandwidth allotment. ACS will never be able to upgrade any of the lines in my area, & also lots of other areas of Anchorage, when they spend all that money just to have lease the lines out to GCI at a much lower rate. If a company can't make a profit on investments, they aren't going to make those investments. That's not real fair for me as a consumer. There's lot lots of customers stuck on slow dialup connections due to old phone lines or service too far away to get faster dsl over phone lines & we're never going to get it unless some company invests in the phone lines. GCI would never invest lots of money in phone lines just to let someone else lease those same lines for so much less than they invested money in.

Please take this into account when you consider this bill.

thank you,

robert stiver

Please support amendments in HB111.

**Subject: Please support amendments in HB111.**

**Date:** Thu, 15 May 2003 15:55:58 -0800

**From:** "Dan Crowson" <trapperdan@hotmail.com>

**To:** Representative\_Lesil\_Mcguire@legis.state.ak.us

**CC:** Representative\_Tom\_Anderson@legis.state.ak.us

Dear Chairmens;

I'm a ACS telephone installer/repairman. I have worked for ATU, now ACS, 11 years. I now need your help! HB 111, without it's amendments, will bankrupt my company, ACS.

We need these 3 amendments;

1) Deprecation - GCI is allowed to deprecate their equipment in 12 years, ACS is required to wait 30 years! Not fair or level playing field.

2) Bundling - Currently, GCI can use 1 customer service agent for all its services, we at ACS are required to transfer our customers to 5 different service reps.

3) Universal Fund - GCI gets \$10.00 for every line, to build new infrastructure. No new telephone cable has been buried anywhere in Anchorage.

In conclusion, GCI made millions last year, on Anchorage customers. ACS lost millions. Please support amendments in HB 111.

Thank you for your time, Dan Crowson

Dan Crowson Pobox 870066 Wasilla, AK 99687 373-7674

Phy; 1460 E Patty Dr. Cell 240-6653

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<http://clinic.mcafee.com/clinic/ibuy/campaign.asp?cid=3963>

**Subject: HB111**

**Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 14:56:25 -0900**

**From: "Michael Henchman" <farnorth@usa.com>**

**To: Representative\_Lesil\_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us**

Dear Representative McGuire:

I am a 25-year Fairbanksan who is very concerned about the recent "telecom wars" between ACS and GCI. As you and your fellow committee members are currently working on the HB111 issue, I am compelled to add my voice to those persons who are supporting the effort to pass this bill \*with the amendments\* that correct the economic inequities between competitive local exchange carriers (CLEC), primarily GCI, and incumbent carriers like ACS.

For the record, I am not opposed to telecom competition; not in its truest business sense. It is clear to me, however, that CLECs survive by leasing networks that have become advantageous for them to use, in terms of the below-cost access they receive. And this situation is perhaps no worse than right here in Alaska, wherein the RCA has clearly gone beyond the call of duty in consistently setting policy which favors GCI far above what is reasonable to ensure fair competition. I have also been both disturbed and offended by the tone of GCI's campaign to discredit ACS as a "monopoly", when GCI clearly is doing so because it is attempting to protect its over-weighted advantage.

These are the disparities I find most objectionable, but this is not an exclusive list:

1. The FCC has guidelines that suggest depreciation should be accelerated to approximately 15 years, to spur investment in new telecom technology as it develops, yet ACS has its hands tied with a 30-year depreciation factor. GCI is allowed a much shorter period of 12 years, less than half of ACS.
2. GCI clearly holds a monopoly on cable TV and can charge whatever it wishes. ACS is forbidden to enter the cable TV market itself, or to resell GCI's signal, and has its rates set by the RCA. And GCI can subsidize their phone rates with profits from their cable TV monopoly, while ACS, as a regulated carrier, cannot subsidize its phones rates with any deregulated activity.
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Sincerely,

Michael Henchman  
Fairbanks

HB111

455-6434  
farnorth@usa.com

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Sign-up for your own FREE Personalized E-mail at Mail.com  
<http://www.mail.com/?sr=signup>

**Subject: HB111**

**Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 16:24:18 -0800**

**From: jon.bowne@acsalaska.net**

**To: Representative\_Lesil\_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us**

Representative McGuire,

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Thank you for your kind attention.

Jon Bowne  
460-1532 (work)  
451-7469 (home)

Subject: HB 1111

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To: Representative\_Lesil\_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us,  
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Representative\_Ralph\_Samuels@legis.state.ak.us, Rpresentative\_Les\_Gara@legis.state.ak.us,  
Representative\_Max\_Gruenberg@legis.state.ak.us

May 15, 2003

Dear Honorable Representatives,

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

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

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Thank you for voting FOR HB 111 WITH all amendments.

Sincerely,  
Stacie Byrns

**Subject: HB 111 WITH AMENDMENTS**

**Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 16:48:50 -0800**

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**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: "Larsen, Robert" <rlarsen@acsalaska.com>**

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Thank you for your dedication in serving the citizens of Alaska. I write today to enlist your support for passing HB 111 WITH the Amendments. I am an employee at ACS. I work as a Customer Service Representative. I have worked here for 9 and 1/2 years. Customer Service is what I have done in one form or another for the past 38 years.

When I was younger, I thought about being a Doctor, a Nurse, a Teacher or a Lawyer. I got OJT training in all those fields as a parent and by working as a Bartender, a Cab Driver, a Cab Dispatcher and finally a Customer Service Representative in the Telecommunications industry in Anchorage Alaska. When I went to work for the phone company I received extensive (three months) training in the unique language of Telephony. However, the best preparation I had for providing Customer Service came from the years I spent tending Bar, driving a Cab, and dispatching Cabs (I really enjoyed telling the other drivers where to go). What I learned from all my years of working in those SERVICE industries was that my customers would only be my customers if I was able to provide the best customer service. My market could get those services from any place. They could order a bottle of beer or a Perrier from any bar. They could catch a ride in any flavor of Cab, and they could call any Cab company besides the one I worked for to arrange that ride. So what separated the Bar, or the Cab Company I worked for from all the rest? Customer Service! The playing field was pretty equal, and in NONE of those fields, did my competitors have the advantage of my company having to subsidize them to promote competition. By providing the best customer service, I was able to maintain a strong customer base. That kept my jobs and allowed me to raise three children as a single mom.

We need the RCA to be brought under control. We need to assure the citizens of Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Juneau (and I'm sure other markets in the future) that they will have choices. To me, that means that one company should not be forced to subsidize the cost of another company doing business. The competition needs to be in the arena of customer service. As long as ACS is forced to resell our facilities for less than it costs us to maintain them, with the result that GCI can forego customer service and just be "the cheapest telephone company in town", we do not have a level playing field. There is nothing to put the competition where it belongs which is in the arena of Customer Service.

I can make a great telephone. I can even repair that telephone. But I can't sell that telephone for less than it costs me to make it and still be here when somebody asks for a telephone. Please help level the playing field and pass HB 111 with the amendments that will do that. It's time GCI started competing on my level. They should have to try to provide real service, like I do. They should have to take care of customers, like I do. They should have to pay for the cost of doing business, like I do.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sue Clark.

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**Subject:** HB111 W/Amendments

**Date:** Thu, 15 May 2003 18:18:43 -0800

**From:** "Perry & Jeannie Carter" <akstuf@acsalaska.net>

**To:** <Representative\_Lesil\_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us>

Thank you for continuing to support HB111 W/Amendments.

Perry Carter  
Anchorage, Ak

5-15-03

( Kevin Meyers

Please support HB 111 with  
amendments to ensure an  
open + fair competition to  
Alaskans -

FORREST CHARLTON

Box 113929

Anch AK 99511

5-15-03

---

Kevin Meyers

Please support HB 111 with  
amendments to ensure an  
open & fair competition to  
Alaskans -

---

Regina Charter

Box 112929

Anch AK 99511

5-15-03

KEVIN MEYERS

Please support HB 111 with  
amendments to ensure an  
open + fair competition to  
Alaskans -

CAM CHARLTON

Box 112929

Anch AK 99511

5-15-03

House Judiciary Com.

Mc Guire

Please support HB 111 with  
amendments to ensure an  
open & fair competition to  
Alaskans -

FORREST CHARLTON

Box 112929

Anch AK 99511

Deanna C. Borgen  
P.O. Box 244555  
Anchorage, AK 99524

TO: ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE  
ATTN: House 24 Cheryl Heinze.

SUBJECT HB 111

Hi my name is Deanna Borgen I have worked in the Telecommunications industry for many years. I feel my job security, retirement and my family's well being and futures are at risk. If the amendments for HB 111 are not kept in place I may lose my job.

When House Bill 111 as amended passes all Alaskan telecommunications consumers will have competition for the first time, and competing companies will have the same set of rates on a level playing field.

Please as a voter, I encourage you to represent my family and myself when you cast your VOTE on this important legislation. Please Support HB 111 and all its critical Amendments.

Thank you  
Deanna C. Borgen

May 13, 2003

Dear Bob Lynn,

I understand HB 111 is in danger of being stripped of all of its amendments. I am writing to ask that you work to pass HB 111 with all of its amendments intact. This is crucial because if HB 111 passes without these amendments my job security + retirement are in jeopardy.

Respectfully,

Laurie Mack

6860 O'Malley  
Anchorage, AK 99507

**Subject: Please Support HB111 With Ammendments**

**Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 11:37:53 -0800**

**From: "Razor, Holly E." <hrasor@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 Honorable Representatives,

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

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

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

Thank you for your time and consideration

Holly Razor  
564-1123

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**Subject: Support for HB 111**

**Date:** Thu, 15 May 2003 11:39:57 -0800

**From:** "Torkelson, Shari" <storkels@acsalaska.com>

**To:** "Representative\_Lesil\_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us" <Representative\_Lesil\_McGuire@legis.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 my Legislators,

I am a registered voter and long time ACS employee.

I support HB 111 not only as an employee of ACS, but as a consumer of utilities.

GCI has been given the leading edge in communications by "unfair competition legislation".

This needs to be corrected and HB 111 and all its ammendments is critical in bringing true

competition to Alaska. In my years here, GCI always advertises fair competition, when in fact

my experience been the opposite. Their court record is proof of that.

They monopolize the cable TV industry here in Anchorage! And their rates reflect that.

GCI has a fair share of the market.

They fought for years to prevent ACS from entering the long distance market.

We need competition to be fair!

Please support HB 111.

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

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**Subject:** hb111

**Date:** Thu, 15 May 2003 11:40:28 -0800

**From:** "Berkley, Stacy" <sberkley@acsalaska.com>

**To:** "Representative\_Lesil\_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us" <Representative\_Lesil\_McGuire@legis.stat

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

Thank You  
Stacy Berkley

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**Subject:** HB111

**Date:** Thu, 15 May 2003 11:41:01 -0800

**From:** "Sylvia, Trena L." <TSylvia@acsalaska.com>

**To:** "Representative\_Lesil\_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us" <Representative\_Lesil\_McGuire@legis.stat

Representatives for Interior Alaska  
And  
House Finance Committee Members

Re: HB111

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you,  
Trena Sylvia  
Community Member  
And  
ACS Employee

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**Subject: HB 111 WITH AMENDMENTS-SUPPORT IT PLEASE!**

**Date:** Thu, 15 May 2003 12:42:37 -0700 (PDT)

**From:** Michael Mandregan <mmandregan@yahoo.com>

**To:** Representative\_Lesil\_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us,  
Representative\_Tom\_Anderson@legis.state.ak.us, Representative\_Dan\_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us,  
Representative\_Jim\_Holm@legis.state.ak.us,  
Representative\_Ralph\_Samuels@legis.state.ak.us, Representative\_Les\_Gara@legis.state.ak.us,  
Representative\_Max\_Gruenberg@legis.state.ak.us

Dear Committee Members;

Please, bring fairness into this "competition".

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

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

Michael Mandregan, Engineer-Network Circuit Design

---

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**Subject:** HB 111

**Date:** Thu, 15 May 2003 11:46:53 -0800

**From:** "Snisarenko, Shawn" <ssnisarenko@ascg.com>

**To:** <Representative\_Lesil\_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us>

Ms. McGuire:

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

Thank you for your attention on this matter.

Shawn P. Snisarenko

**Subject: Requesting your support of HB111 with amendments**

**Date:** Thu, 15 May 2003 11:54:06 -0800

**From:** "Neff, La'Net" <LNeff@acsalaska.com>

**To:** Anderson T <Representative\_Tom\_Anderson@legis.state.ak.us>,  
Gruenberg Max <Representative\_Max\_Gruenberg@legis.state.ak.us>,  
Holm Jim <Representative\_Jim\_Holm@legis.state.ak.us>,  
Les Gara <Representative\_Les\_Gara@legis.state.ak.us>,  
McGuire L <Representative\_Lesil\_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us>,  
Ogg D <Representative\_Dan\_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us>,  
Samuels Ralph <Representative\_Ralph\_Samuels@legis.state.ak.us>

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

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

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

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

Please support HB111 WITH AMENDMENTS.

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**Subject: HB 111**

**Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 11:56:34 -0800**

**From: "John F. Jansen" <santaman@alaska.net>**

**To: Representative\_Lesil\_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us**

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

--

XX

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

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

XX

**Subject: Fair competition?**

**Date:** Thu, 15 May 2003 12:03:16 -0800

**From:** "Moninski, Olga" <omoninsk@acsalaska.co.n>

**To:** "Representative\_Lesil\_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us" <Representative\_Lesil\_McGuire@legis.stat:  
"Representative\_Ralph\_Samuels@legis.state.ak.us" <Representative\_Ralph\_Samuels@legis.sta  
"Representative\_Les\_Gara@legis.state.ak.us" <Representative\_Les\_Gara@legis.state.ak.us>,  
"Representative\_Max\_Gruenberg@legis.state.ak.us" <Representative\_Max\_Gruenberg@legis.s  
"Representative\_Dan\_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us" <Representative\_Dan\_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us>,  
"Representative\_Jim\_Holm@legis.state.ak.us" <Representative\_Jim\_Holm@legis.state.ak.us>

Dear Representatives.

I have worked in the Telecommunications industry for twenty two years: sixteen of them in Russia and six in the U.S.A. (including more than three years for ACS.) I can tell you that competition is great: it keeps the prices down and pushes telecommunications companies to develop different features to attract customers.

However, it's difficult to call the situation we have now "competition" when one company gets special treatment. If ACS one day goes out of business, what will the State of Alaska have to say? That they didn't mean for it to happen?

Please support HB 111 and all its critical amendments. Please don't favor one child over another one.

Best regards,

Olga "Olya" Moninski  
ACS Engineering  
(907) 564-1185 office ph.  
(907) 242-9019 cell ph.  
omoninsk@acsalaska.com  
fax (907) 564-3447

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I support HB111 with amendments

**Subject: I support HB111 with amendments**

**Date:** Thu, 15 May 2003 13:06:33 -0700 (PDT)

**From:** jason werner <ja\_wer@yahoo.com>

**To:** Representative\_Lesil\_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us, Representative\_Dan\_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us,  
Representative\_Jim\_Hoim@legis.state.ak.us,  
Representative\_Ralph\_Samuels@legis.state.ak.us, Representative\_Les\_Gara@legis.state.ak.us

To all Representatives,

My name is Jason Werner, I have lived in alaska and been a resident for over 20 yrs. I support Alaska and fair competition in our economy.

I Support HB111 with amendments

Jason Werner  
17622 N Juanita Loop  
Eagle River, AK  
622 1003\Cell 830 4004

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**ALASKA STATE  
HOMEBUILDERS ASSOCIATION**

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

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

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

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

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

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

NOW, 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.stat  
 "Representative\_Tom\_Anderson@legis.state.ak.us" <Representative\_Tom\_Anderson@legis.sta  
 "Representative\_Dan\_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us" <Representative\_Dan\_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us>,  
 "Representative\_Jim\_Holm@legis.state.ak.us" <Representative\_Jim\_Holm@legis.state.ak.us>,  
 "Representative\_Ralph\_Samuels@legis.state.ak.us" <Representative\_Ralph\_Samuels@legis.sta  
 "Representative\_Les\_Gara@legis.state.ak.us" <Representative\_Les\_Gara@legis.state.ak.us>,  
 "Representative\_Max\_Gruenberg@legis.state.ak.us" <Representative\_Max\_Gruenberg@legis.s

> My name is Celestina Simmons, and I am taking this opportunity to write  
 > you regarding HB111. As it stand this will be the demise of the company  
 > I work for. My family has lived in Alaska for almost thirty years, and I  
 > have worked for my present employer for twenty five of those years.

>  
 > I am one of the employees that took a leading roll years ago when ATU came  
 > up for sale the first time. I made commercials for one of the then  
 > interested companies, Citizen Utilities. My commercials at that time  
 > addressed competition for Anchorage.

>  
 > True competition is not what is happening here. My company has to ask for  
 > permission of the RCA to combine any service we wish to offer our  
 > customers when our competitors do not have to go before the RCA for the  
 > same request. Leasing of our lines is also done on a very uneven scale.  
 > Example: you are leasing office space at the rate of thirty dollars a  
 > month and the Federal government decides that you have to turn around and  
 > lease your space to someone else for nineteen dollars a month. All the  
 > maintenance of the office is done by you and that cost cannot be passed on  
 > to your client. How do you keep up? A level competitive playing field?

>  
 > This is but a small example of what we have had to live with, and it has  
 > come to a point that things have to change. Competition is good for  
 > everyone, and it keeps us all on our toes. But like any boxer in a ring we  
 > can not put up a good fight with our hands chained behind are backs. With  
 > fair and open competition, if we still can't make it, then shame on us. We  
 > deserve that chance.

>  
 > Please put the amendments back on HB111. All we our asking for is fair  
 > competition.

>  
 >  
 >  
 >  
 > Celes Simmons  
 7401 Hillside Way  
 Anchorage Alaska 99516

>  
 >  
 >  
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 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 an 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: HBIII WITH AMENDMENTS**

**Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 14:38:58 -0800**

**From: "Leah Merritt" <leah@ctcak.net>**

**To: <Representative\_Lesil\_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us>**

I support HB III with amendments!

Leah Merritt  
Cordova, AK 99574

**Subject:** HB111

**Date:** Thu, 15 May 2003 15:00:38 -0800

**From:** "McCullough, Shawn" <smccullo@acsalaska.com>

**To:** "Representative\_Lesil\_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us" <Representative\_Lesil\_McGuire@legis.stat

Dear Ms.McGuire

> I am writing to ask that you fight for the AMENDMENTS to  
> HB111. These amendments insure that fair competition will finally begin in  
> the telecommunication's industry here in Alaska. I fear that if these  
> amendments do not get voted in that the company I work for ACS will not be  
> in business in the near future. I believe that there will be layoffs and  
> many good paying jobs will be lost. This is not what Alaska needs. We need  
> more jobs with good pay and benefits. I feel that the RCA has been coerced  
> into a one sided effort in the telecommunication's industry. The main  
> competitor GCI has been given a free ride for seven years. While Acs is  
> subsidizing their only competitor. Is this Really the competition that  
> the  
> fed. 's wanted ? I think that now that GCI has a very big percentage of the  
> market that they should have to pay for it. Why let GCI get their way  
> again  
> with the RCA. They are the only ones to gain in this effort to pass the  
> RCA  
> with out the amendments. The public will only feel the loss of maintenance  
> on the lines that serve both Gci and ACS customers. So far to date there  
> has  
> been no benefit to the customer in this so called Competitive market. The  
> same lines that served them before are still in use but getting older and  
> older. Who will pay to replace them in the future GCI?  
> I Highly doubt this. GCI needs to step up to the plate and earn their  
> market  
> share.  
>  
> Please support this issue.  
> Shawn McCullough

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**Subject: HB 111**

**Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 15:17:16 -0800**

**From: chstiver@alaska.net**

**To: Representative\_Lesil\_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us**

Hello,

I'm concerned about HB 111 not just as an employee of ACS, but also as a consumer. I want it pass w/ amendments.

I can't get dsl where I live at in Anchorage & am stuck w/ dialup unless I want to pay GCI for cable tv to get a decent price for cable Internet which can't be used for much downloading due to the low monthly bandwidth allotment. ACS will never be able to upgrade any of the lines in my area, & also lots of other areas of Anchorage, when they spend all that money just to have lease the lines out to GCI at a much lower rate. If a company can't make a profit on investments, they aren't going to make those investments. That's not real fair for me as a consumer. There's lot lots of customers stuck on slow dialup connections due to old phone lines or service too far away to get faster dsl over phone lines & we're never going to get it unless some company invests in the phone lines. GCI would never invest lots of money in phone lines just to let someone else lease those same lines for so much less than they invested money in.

Please take this into account when you consider this bill.

thank you,

robert stiver

Please support amendments in HB111.

**Subject: Please support amendments in HB111.**

**Date:** Thu, 15 May 2003 15:55:58 -0800

**From:** "Dan Crowson" <trapperdan@hotmail.com>

**To:** Representative\_Lesil\_Mcguire@legis.state.ak.us

**CC:** Representative\_Tom\_Anderson@legis.state.ak.us

Dear Chairmens;

I'm a ACS telephone installer/repairman. I have worked for ATU, now ACS, 11 years. I now need your help! HB 111, without it's amendmnts, will bankrupt my company, ACS.

We need these 3 amendmnts;

1) Deprecation - GCI is allowed to deprecate their equipment in 12 years, ACS is required to wait 30 years! Not fair or level playing field.

2) Bundling - Currently, GCI can use 1 customer service agent for all its services, we at ACS are required to transfer our customers to 5 different service reps.

3) Universal Fund - GCI gets \$10.00 for every line, to build new infrastructure. No new telephone cable has been buried anywhere in Anchorage.

In conclusion, GCI made millions last year, on Anchorage customers. ACS lost millions. Please support amendmnts in HB 111.

Thank you for your time, Dan Crowson

Dan Crowson Pobox 870066 Wasilla, AK 99687 373-7674  
Phy; 1460 E Patty Dr. Cell 240-6653

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Protect your PC - get McAfee.com VirusScan Online  
<http://clinic.mcafee.com/clinic/ibuy/campaign.asp?cid=3963>

**Subject: HB111**

**Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 14:56:25 -0900**

**From: "Michael Henchman" <farnorth@usa.com>**

**To: Representative\_Lesil\_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us**

Dear Representative McGuire:

I am a 25-year Fairbanksan who is very concerned about the recent "telecom wars" between ACS and GCI. As you and your fellow committee members are currently working on the HB111 issue, I am compelled to add my voice to those persons who are supporting the effort to pass this bill \*with the amendments\* that correct the economic inequities between competitive local exchange carriers (CLEC), primarily GCI, and incumbent carriers like ACS.

For the record, I am not opposed to telecom competition; not in its truest business sense. It is clear to me, however, that CLECs survive by leasing networks that have become advantageous for them to use, in terms of the below-cost access they receive. And this situation is perhaps no worse than right here in Alaska, wherein the RCA has clearly gone beyond the call of duty in consistently setting policy which favors GCI far above what is reasonable to ensure fair competition. I have also been both disturbed and offended by the tone of GCI's campaign to discredit ACS as a "monopoly", when GCI clearly is doing so because it is attempting to protect its over-weighted advantage.

These are the disparities I find most objectionable, but this is not an exclusive list:

1. The FCC has guidelines that suggest depreciation should be accelerated to approximately 15 years, to spur investment in new telecom technology as it develops, yet ACS has its hands tied with a 30-year depreciation factor. GCI is allowed a much shorter period of 12 years, less than half of ACS.
2. GCI clearly holds a monopoly on cable TV and can charge whatever it wishes. ACS is forbidden to enter the cable TV market itself, or to resell GCI's signal, and has its rates set by the RCA. And GCI can subsidize their phone rates with profits from their cable TV monopoly, while ACS, as a regulated carrier, cannot subsidize its phones rates with any deregulated activity.
3. ACS receives a federal subsidy per rural line to offset the cost of installing and maintaining service in remote areas. When GCI leases one of those ACS lines to serve its customer, the RCA has mandated that GCI can receive that subsidy - even though ACS is required to continue maintenance on that line, an even deeper subsidization of GCI than already guaranteed by its apparent protector, the RCA. It's like being forced to let my neighbor drive and wear out my car, for a pittance, while I am required to pay for gas and repairs. This is patently unfair.

Ultimately, the inability of incumbent carriers to equitably recoup costs associated with leasing their lines and equipment, along with the requirement that they must open any new facilities which they build to such unbalanced competition, means that investment and development is stymied. It is already happening with large carriers in the Lower 48, who are at less of a clear disadvantage than is ACS at the hands of the RCA. When this happens, consumers lose.

I strongly urge you to allow TRUE and FAIR competition to flourish. This means that HB111 should pass with its amendments, so that the competitive telecom arena is rebalanced. If allowed to continue unabated, the current RCA policy will have a deleterious effect on local service in larger communities, and it will most certainly have a disastrous effect on remote communities, for whom it will eventually become too expensive to serve when the CLECs do not have to pay to incumbent carriers the true costs associated with those customers.

Sincerely,

Michael Henchman  
Fairbanks

HB111

455-6434  
farnorth@usa.com

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Sign-up for your own FREE Personalized E-mail at Mail.com  
<http://www.mail.com/?sr=signup>

**Subject: HB111**

**Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 16:24:18 -0800**

**From: jon.bowne@acsalaska.net**

**To: Representative\_Lesil\_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us**

Representative McGuire,

Please do not fall for the disingenuous rhetoric that GCI is publishing and broadcasting statewide. The RCA consistently has given GCI unfair advantage over ACS. I believe in competition, but on a level playing field.

--ACS is mandated to build out, operate and maintain the telephone network infrastructure from which GCI is allowed to lease lines at below ACS cost.

--After leasing dial tone from ACS, GCI can charge whatever they wish for that service. ACS must sell their own service at the established regulated rate.

--GCI can subsidize their phone service with monies from their cable telephone monopoly, or from any other source. ACS cannot subsidize regulated telephone service from any other source, period! GCI can; ACS cannot.

--GCI can bundle services (i.e. cable TV, Wireless, Internet) to make an attractive marketing package. ACS cannot add a deregulated service to any marketing bundle. GCI can; ACS cannot.

--ACS receives a federal subsidy per rural line to offset the cost of installing and maintaining service in remote areas. When GCI takes an ACS customer, the RCA has mandated that GCI can receive that subsidy - even though ACS is required to continue maintaining those lines.

--The communications industry is changing rapidly; equipment bought today can be obsolete in five years or less (FCC guidelines are ten years; current reality is five). RCA mandates that ACS must depreciate its equipment on a thirty-year schedule. It says that GCI can depreciate its equipment on a twelve-year schedule.

--ACS is forced to lease its plant to GCI at below cost. Neither ACS nor anyone else is allowed to lease any part of the GCI cable television network.

--There is no point at which GCI stops receiving special treatment. They have over fifty percent of the local Anchorage market right now. They can go to 100% and all their special privileges stay in place.

Can a reasonable person honestly say that these rules and restrictions are fair? They are a disincentive to growth and expansion and, while bad for the industry in general; they have a disproportionately adverse effect on the most remote customers. I hope you recognize the damage that the RCA has done to the telecommunications business in Alaska. Pass HB111 with the amendments in place and allow all parties fair, market driven competition.

Thank you for your kind attention.

Jon Bowne  
460-1532 (work)  
451-7469 (home)

**Subject: HB 1111**

**Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 20:39:33 -0400**

**From: Uptilnow@aol.com**

**To: Representative\_Lesil\_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us,  
Representative\_Tom\_Anderson@legis.state.ak.us, Representative\_Dan\_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us,  
Representative\_Jim\_Holm@legis.state.ak.us,  
Representative\_Ralph\_Samuels@legis.state.ak.us, Rrepresentative\_Les\_Gara@legis.state.ak.us,  
Representative\_Max\_Gruenberg@legis.state.ak.us**

May 15, 2003

Dear Honorable Representatives,

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

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

I have always prided myself on being fair and just to everyone no matter what the situation as such when I see a full-page ad or hear a radio spot that is filled with untruths then I get upset. This political maneuvering is nothing more 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

**Subject: HB 111 WITH AMENDMENTS**

**Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 16:48:50 -0800**

**From: "Clark, Susan" <sclark@acsalaska.com>**

**To: "Representative\_Lesil\_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us" <Representative\_Lesil\_McGuire@legis.stat  
"Representative\_Tom\_Anderson@legis.state.ak.us" <Representative\_Tom\_Anderson@legis.sta  
"Representative\_Dan\_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us" <Representative\_Dan\_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us>,  
"Representative\_Jim\_Holm@legis.state.ak.us" <Representative\_Jim\_Holm@legis.state.ak.us>,  
"Representative\_Ralph\_Samuels@legis.state.ak.us" <Representative\_Ralph\_Samuels@legis.sta  
"Representative\_Les\_Gara@legis.state.ak.us" <Representative\_Les\_Gara@legis.state.ak.us>,  
"Representative\_Max\_Gruenberg@legis.state.ak.us" <Representative\_Max\_Gruenberg@legis.st**

**CC: "Larsen, Robert" <rlarsen@acsalaska.com>**

Dear Representatives McGuire, Anderson, Ogg, Holm, Samuels, Gara and Gruenberg;

Thank you for your dedication in serving the citizens of Alaska. I write today to enlist your support for passing HB 111 WITH the Amendments. I am an employee at ACS. I work as a Customer Service Representative. I have worked here for 9 and 1/2 years. Customer Service is what I have done in one form or another for the past 38 years.

When I was younger, I thought about being a Doctor, a Nurse, a Teacher or a Lawyer. I got OJT training in all those fields as a parent and by working as a Bartender, a Cab Driver, a Cab Dispatcher and finally a Customer Service Representative in the Telecommunications industry in Anchorage Alaska. When I went to work for the phone company I received extensive (three months) training in the unique language of Telephony. However, the best preparation I had for providing Customer Service came from the years I spent tending Bar, driving a Cab, and dispatching Cabs (I really enjoyed telling the other drivers where to go). What I learned from all my years of working in those SERVICE industries was that my customers would only be my customers if I was able to provide the best customer service. My market could get those services from any place. They could order a bottle of beer or a Perrier from any bar. They could catch a ride in any flavor of Cab, and they could call any Cab company besides the one I worked for to arrange that ride. So what separated the Bar, or the Cab Company I worked for from all the rest? Customer Service! The playing field was pretty equal, and in NONE of those fields, did my competitors have the advantage of my company having to subsidize them to promote competition. By providing the best customer service, I was able to maintain a strong customer base. That kept my jobs and allowed me to raise three children as a single mom.

We need the RCA to be brought under control. We need to assure the citizens of Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Juneau (and I'm sure other markets in the future) that they will have choices. To me, that means that one company should not be forced to subsidize the cost of another company doing business. The competition needs to be in the arena of customer service. As long as ACS is forced to resell our facilities for less than it costs us to maintain them, with the result that GCI can forego customer service and just be "the cheapest telephone company in town", we do not have a level playing field. There is nothing to put the competition where it belongs which is in the arena of Customer Service.

I can make a great telephone. I can even repair that telephone. But I can't sell that telephone for less than it costs me to make it and still be here when somebody asks for a telephone. Please help level the playing field and pass HB 111 with the amendments that will do that. It's time GCI started competing on my level. They should have to try to provide real service, like I do. They should have to take care of customers, like I do. They should have to pay for the cost of doing business, like I do.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sue Clark.

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HB111 W/Amendments

**Subject: HB111 W/Amendments**

**Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 18:18:43 -0800**

**From: "Perry & Jeannie Carter" <akstuf@acsalaska.net>**

**To: <Representative\_Lesil\_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us>**

Thank you for continuing to support HB111 W/Amendments.

Perry Carter  
Anchorage, Ak

5-15-03

( Kevin Meyers

Please support HB 111 with  
amendments to ensure an  
open & fair competition to  
Alaskans -

FORREST CHARLTON

Box 112929

Anch AK 99511

5-15-03

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Kevin Meyers

Please support HB 111 with  
amendments to ensure an  
open & fair competition to  
Alaskans -

---

Regina Charter

Box 112929

Anch AK 99511

5-15-03

KEVIN MEYERS

Please support HB 111 with  
amendments to ensure an  
open & fair competition to  
Alaskans -

CAM CHARLTON

Box 112929

Anch AK 99511

5-15-03

House Judiciary Com.  
McGuire

Please support HB 111 with  
amendments to ensure an  
open & fair competition to  
Alaskans -

FORREST CHARLTON

Box 112929

Anch AK 99511

Deanna C. Borgen  
P.O. Box 244555  
Anchorage, AK 99524

TO: ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE  
ATTN: House 24 Cheryl Heinze.

SUBJECT HB 111

Hi my name is Deanna Borgen I have worked in the Telecommunications industry for many years. I feel my job security, retirement and my family's well being and futures are at risk. If the amendments for HB 111 are not kept in place I may lose my job.

When House Bill 111 as amended passes all Alaskan telecommunications consumers will have competition for the first time, and competing companies will have the same set of rules on a level playing field.

Please as a voter, I encourage you to represent my family and myself when you cast your VOTE on this important Legislation. Please Support HB 111 and all its critical Amendments.

Thank you  
Deanna C. Borgen