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HOUSE C&RA



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February 12, 2008

Representative Bill Stoltze
Alaska State Legislature
Attn: Ben Mulligan
State Capitol Room 501
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Re: Letter of support for HB 356

Dear Representative Bill Stoltze:

Eklutna, Inc. (Eklutna) supports the proposed House Bill 356. This proposed legislation will clear the way for land exchanges between Native corporations and Alaska Municipalities (all of the State's political subdivisions) to occur while maintaining the ANCSA real property tax exempt status for the Native corporations when the lands exchanged are similarly undeveloped.

Under the present statutory framework, when a Native corporation exchanges its ANCSA protected tax exempt undeveloped lands with a political subdivision of the state, there is no statutory provision that allows for the exemption to carry through to the land(s) received by the Native corporation in the exchange. This legislation will provide an exemption from real property taxation in such cases until said lands are developed.

In the case of the ongoing exchange of Eklutna's undeveloped Mt. Baldy land for a portion of the Municipality of Anchorage's (MOA) undeveloped Edmonds Lake Park land, Eklutna will be giving up ANCSA tax exempt land and receiving land that would be subject to real estate taxes. Both parties are frustrated by a lack of statutory authority to provide for a non-taxable status on the undeveloped lands Eklutna will receive in the exchange.

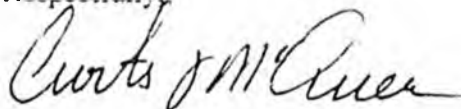
Eklutna has been approached by various municipal entities in the past, such as the Anchorage School District, Anchorage Police Department, Anchorage Fire Department and others looking to exchange MOA Heritage Land Bank lands with ours. There is a real strong disincentive for Eklutna to consider any exchange under these circumstances. This disincentive will negatively affect many potential exchanges of land between Native corporations and municipalities all over Alaska.

Eklutna believes that there are numerous opportunities for exchanges of land to take place between Alaskan Native corporations and political subdivisions of the State of Alaska. However, without the requisite statutory authority in place, some exchanges will never take place or be frustrated by the lack of ability to maintain the ANCSA tax exempt status the undeveloped Native lands provide.

Eklutna fully supports the efforts of the legislature to address and correct this important issue with the proposed legislation. The legislation will provide positive incentive for exchanges to occur between municipalities and Alaska Native corporations and provide benefits for all Alaska.

Thank you in advance for your consideration. If there are any questions, please contact us.

Respectfully,



Curtis J. McQueen
Chief Executive Officer
Eklutna, Inc.

cc: Jim Arnesen, Corporate Lands and Regulatory Manager
Eklutna, Inc. Board of Directors
Keith Sanders, CIRI Legal Department



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Attn: Ben Mulligan
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Juneau, AK 99801-1182

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Under the present statutory framework, when a Native corporation exchanges its ANCSA protected tax exempt undeveloped lands with a political subdivision of the state, there is no statutory provision that allows for the exemption to carry through to the land(s) received by the Native corporation in the exchange. This legislation will provide an exemption from real property taxation in such cases until said lands are developed.

In the case of the ongoing exchange of Eklutna's undeveloped Mt. Baldy land for a portion of the Municipality of Anchorage's (MOA) undeveloped Edmonds Lake Park land, Eklutna will be giving up ANCSA tax exempt land and receiving land that would be subject to real estate taxes. Both parties are frustrated by a lack of statutory authority to provide for a non-taxable status on the undeveloped lands Eklutna will receive in the exchange.

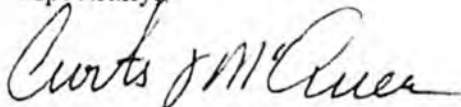
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Eklutna believes that there are numerous opportunities for exchanges of land to take place between Alaskan Native corporations and political subdivisions of the State of Alaska. However, without the requisite statutory authority in place, some exchanges will never take place or be frustrated by the lack of ability to maintain the ANCSA tax exempt status the undeveloped Native lands provide.

Eklutna fully supports the efforts of the legislature to address and correct this important issue with the proposed legislation. The legislation will provide positive incentive for exchanges to occur between municipalities and Alaska Native corporations and provide benefits for all Alaska.

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Respectfully,



Curtis J. McQueen
Chief Executive Officer
Eklutna, Inc

cc: Jim Amesen, Corporate Lands and Regulatory Manager
Eklutna, Inc. Board of Directors
Keith Sanders, CIRI Legal Department

Baldy problems might be solved

By GREG DART

Barricades blocking parking at the Mount Baldy trailhead were to be removed by today, according to city officials.

Robin Ward, director of municipal real estate services, said hikers to Mount Baldy no longer have to trespass across Paula Caywood's land to access the trail, under terms of a lease agreement reached Monday between the Municipality of Anchorage and Caywood. An easement for foot traffic through Caywood's land was also included in the deal, which was to be signed Wednesday.

"It's a win-win situation for everybody," Caywood said Tuesday.

Hikers are still required to have a free permit to cross Eklutna Inc. land. To get to Chugach State Park from the trailhead, hikers cross both Eklutna and Caywood land.

Terms for the six-month lease were not disclosed by press time. The lease also includes an optional six-month extension.

An agreement was reached in principle several months ago, but negotiations ceased between Caywood and the city last month before beginning again last week.

Access to Mount Baldy has been in limbo since October when Caywood applied to rezone 40 acres of land, part of which was the traditional trailhead and parking area, which holds a dozen or so vehicles. Caywood was granted the rezone and given the go-ahead to build six homes.

The deal should give the city and Chugach State Park time to establish a permanent trailhead in the area, said Ward.

That process also took a step forward Friday when the city and Eklutna reached a memorandum of agreement to pursue a land swap. The city is hoping to obtain 80 acres south of the traditional Mount Baldy Trailhead, which would then be acquired by the state to build a permanent parking area.

"Our board voted, approved and signed a memorandum of agreement," said Curtis McQueen, spokesman for Eklutna. "There is a lot that still needs to happen, but we are moving forward and we all have the same goal."

Before a land swap is completed with Eklutna, parcels must be identified and appraisals of all involved land must be completed. The deal may also have to go before voters.

One of the municipal pieces of land that Eklutna is pursuing includes access through designated park land near Mirror Lake Middle School. Any changes that deal with park land must be voter approved.

Ward said it was too early to discuss publicly what land might be swapped with Eklutna. She said as negotiations move forward, more details will be released.

Reach the reporter at greg.dart@alaskastar.com.

This article published in The Alaska Star on Thursday, August 18, 2005.

Mount Baldy agreement signed; access still unclear

By GREG DART

Barricades blocking the Mount Baldy trailhead and parking lot were removed last week - though it might not seem that way to hikers attempting access to the alpine slopes of Chugach State Park.

The city and a local landowner officially announced Monday that they reached a lease agreement to maintain temporary parking and access over private land.

The traditional Mount Baldy access is at the top of Skyline Drive near where it turns into Wallace Mountain Road.

Those who drive there now will find the dirt parking area. But it may not be completely clear where the trail goes from there, said Anchorage Assemblywoman Debbie Ossiander of Chugiak.

"People still have to go under or around the gate (which blocks the road)," said Ossiander. "If you have never been up there before it might not be clear that is where access is being granted."

That's because people who arrive at the parking lot will find that the two paths that lead to the mountain are both blocked. The bottom path is fenced to help control erosion. The other path is the continuation of Wallace Mountain Road, which is closed off by a locked, metal gate. Although a "Private Property" sign still adorns the gate, officials say access is permitted under or around the other side of the gate.

"I think most people up in the area know where they can go," said John Rodda, director of the Eagle River-Chugiak Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Development.

However, hikers also must obtain permission from another landowner in the area, Eklutna Inc., in the form of a free permit.

Access to the hiking area was put in jeopardy last year when landowner Paula Caywood applied for a rezone of 40 acres for a subdivision. Part of the land has for years been used as the parking lot and trailhead for Mount Baldy.

The city last week reached a lease agreement with Caywood paying her a lump sum of \$3,000 to lease the trailhead land for six months.



Hikers at the Mount Baldy trailhead must go around this gate to gain access to the permitted access in the area.

STAR PHOTO BY GREG DART

The city also reached a memorandum of understanding with Eklutna in regards to a trade that would provide land to the city for a permanent trailhead and parking area. That parking area will likely be built next year above the current trailhead. Caywood has agreed to provide a permanent easement to the parking area.

This article published in The Alaska Star on Thursday, August 25, 2005.

Voters OK Baldy swap Begich wins; most bonds fail

By KATE TRACY

Voters approved a land swap Tuesday that should restore public access to Mount Baldy.

Also winning easily in the municipal election was Mayor Mark Begich with more than 55 percent of the vote over Jack Frost, Thomas Higgins and Nick Moe.

Voters said "no" to municipal-wide bond propositions with property tax increases attached, including those concerning public safety, parks, the 4th Avenue Theatre and education.

The three percent sales and use tax measure was rejected by more than 70 percent of voters. More than 55 percent voted down the charter amendment authorizing traffic violation enforcement by municipal peace officers.

A precinct-by-precinct tally that would show how Chugiak-Eagle River voted in relation to the rest of the Municipality of Anchorage was not available in time for publication.

Proposition 5 paves the way for the city to trade 20 acres in Edmonds Lake Park to Eklutna for 80 acres adjacent to Chugach State Park to be used for parking and access to the Mount Baldy trailhead.

About 62 percent of voters approved the deal.

John Rodda, Eagle River/Chugiak Parks, Recreation and Community Development director, said voter approval is the initial step in a four-part land exchange driven by Mount Baldy access issues.

Access to Mount Baldy has been in limbo since October 2004 when Paula Caywood applied to rezone 40 acres of her land off of Skyline Drive and was given the go-ahead to build six homes.

A portion of the property has been used for decades as an unofficial, unimproved parking lot to access The Mount Baldy and Chugach State Park.

Last year, barricades came and went as negotiations continued. The city and Caywood have a lease agreement to maintain temporary parking and access over private land, which expires Aug. 21.

The four-part exchange includes trading eight acres of municipal land in the southeast corner of northwest quarter of Section 25 adjacent to Beach Lake Park to Eklutna for about 15 acres in the Powder Reserve development as a future elementary school site.

The city and Eklutna reached a memorandum of agreement last August to pursue the land swap.

Local activists expressed concern that the initial land swap approved by voters, which comes at no cost to taxpayers, is really no deal at all.

Ann Newbury, an active member of the Birchwood Community Council for 28 years, opposed the ballot proposition saying it's a mistake to give away parkland.

"I'm very sad for the community. We're only beginning the battle of what is really going to happen," Newbury said, adding she fears the vote sets a precedent for giving away parkland with little thought to long-term consequences.

Assemblywoman Debbie Ossiander of Chugiak supported the ballot proposition.

"If this hadn't happened it would have been extremely difficult to move forward. This would have stopped all discussions of land trades if it had failed. So, I'm pleased. This is basically an endorsement of that approach we're going," she said.

But the deal isn't done yet.

According to final appraisals, "80 acres of Mount Baldy has fair market value equal to 47 acres of Edmonds Lake Park," Rodda said, adding that municipal land holder Heritage Land Bank will work with Eklutna to make up the 27-acre difference.

"Twenty acres is the maximum that can come out of Edmonds Lake Park," he said.

"We're not done," Ossiander said. "I wrote a resolution that said there would be a five-member advisory group of Chugiak-Eagle River people to weigh in on how this trade finishes up."

That resolution, passed by the Anchorage Assembly March 28, identified other HLB parcels that could make up the appraisal difference.

Ossiander said the assembly will approve final agreements.

Rodda said Parks and Recreation has \$294,000 appropriated for the Mount Baldy trailhead project, which can be used for development.

Nearly 60 percent of voters also approved a long-term lease of the golf course at Russian Jack Park and disposal of 69 acres of parkland for a 38-acre tract adjacent to South Anchorage Ball Fields. Like the Mount Baldy exchange, neither result in property tax increases.

More than 99 percent of voters in the Chugiak Fire Service area elected John Holmquist to fill Board of Supervisors Seat B.

Results of Proposition 26, voted on by citizens residing in the Tablelands Subdivision in Chugiak regarding a new streetlight service in the area, were not available in time for publication.

This article published in The Alaska Star on Thursday, April 6, 2006.

City and Eklutna inch closer to Mount Baldy deal

By DARRELL L. BREESE

Completion of a land swap deal between Eklutna Inc. and the Municipality of Anchorage to create a public access and parking area at Mount Baldy took a big step toward becoming a reality Feb. 14.

Representatives from the two parties signed a Memorandum of Understanding stating they both will make a mutual effort to reach a binding agreement to complete the land exchange approved by voters in 2006.

But there is a catch, to make up the difference in land values for parcels being traded, Eklutna wants more than \$320,000 cash up front.

Recent appraisals, completed by the municipality, show the fair market value of the 80-acre Eklutna-owned parcel adjacent to Chugach State Park is approximately \$1.4 million. The 20-acre municipal-owned Edmonds Lake Park parcel plus the 7.95-acre access parcel have a fair market value of \$815,218, leaving a \$611,782 difference.

A state legislative grant or \$290,000 for Mount Baldy access eliminates some of the deficit, but it still leaves the municipality \$321,782 short of completing the deal.

Eagle River-Chugiak Parks, Recreation and Community Development director John Rodda said the municipality will have to come up with the difference to satisfy the conditions of the Memorandum of Understanding.

"Basically, both parties have agreed to agree," Rodda said. "Now it is up to the municipality to meet the conditions of the land exchange the Eklutna board of directors has placed on the deal. And that means cash for the difference in property values."

Rodda said Eklutna was offered proceeds from the lease of the Eklutna Radio Tower over the next 30 years to make up the difference, but the Eklutna Board rejected that offer instead requesting the cash up front.

Access to Mount Baldy was limited in 2004, when landowner Paula Caywood applied to rezone 40 acres of land, part of which was the traditional trailhead and parking area. After being granted the rezone, a gate was placed on the property, keeping hikers away from the trails.

Attempts to negotiate a lease with Caywood broke down, leading the city to turn to Eklutna for access to the Mount Baldy trails and into Chugach State Park.

Sen. Fred Dyson praised the cooperative effort of both the parks and rec department and Eklutna in bringing negotiations for the land exchange to this point.

"We have one of the largest state parks in the world right out our back door," Dyson said. "It's a shame that the state hasn't provided better access to it. It's encouraging to see the mayor and Eklutna sitting down to provide the people access to a true treasure of the community."

Dyson and the other local legislators have already secured a \$290,000 grant for the deal, but when asked by Rodda during a Feb. 17 Legislative Town Hall meeting, Dyson wasn't sure if the additional funding would be available.

"I'm not sure we can get it into the budget this year," Dyson asked Rodda. "Could you look to other sources of funding? Maybe sell revenue bonds? I would encourage you look explore other funding options."

The Memorandum of Understanding is binding for one year, then it expires unless both parties can agree to an extension.

"If we can find the money, we have a deal," Rodda said. "The clock is ticking, but Eklutna said that if the money could not come from the state, they would be willing to wait. However, the longer this goes on, the reality of completing the deal fades."

Reach the reporter at darrell.breese@alaskastar.com.

This article published in The Alaska Star on Thursday, March 1, 2007.

Details all that remain for Mount Baldy land swap

\$375,000 state grant secured to complete deal for public access

Aug. 16, 2007

By DARRELL L. BREESE

Eagle River-Chugiak Parks, Recreation and Community Development Director John Rodda said a \$375,000 state grant puts the Municipality of Anchorage on course to satisfy the conditions of the memorandum of understanding with Eklutna Inc. that will provide access to Mount Baldy, but he cautioned that there are still some things that need to be worked out before the deal becomes final.

"The devil is in the details," Rodda said. "We don't have a final agreement with Eklutna yet, because we are looking for documents that show access to Mount Baldy through the Wallace property beyond the Eklutna land involved in the swap."

Rodda did however say the state grant was a big piece of the puzzle needed to complete the deal.



"We're 95 percent done," he said. "The state funds have been secured and came to the city. Once we iron out the details, we'll have an agreement we can present to the mayor and (Anchorage) Assembly before signing off on the deal."

"We're trying to make the entire process of this deal as transparent as possible," Rodda continued. "We want to keep everything aboveboard and open for review throughout the process."

The Municipality of Anchorage appears to be on track for meeting the conditions of a memorandum of understanding with Eklutna Inc., which will provide access to Mount Baldy. Access to Mount Baldy was limited for outdoor enthusiasts in 2004 when landowner Paula Caywood applied to rezone 40 acres of land adjacent to Chugach State Park, where the established trailhead and parking area was located.

Access to Mount Baldy was limited in 2004 when landowner Paula Caywood applied to rezone 40 acres of land adjacent to Chugach State Park, which was the traditional trailhead and parking area. After being granted the rezone, a gate was placed on the property, keeping hikers away from the trails.

Attempts to negotiate a lease with Caywood broke down, leading the city to turn to Eklutna for access to the Mount Baldy trails.

The \$375,000 state grant is necessary to make up the difference in appraisals for the land being exchanged to provide the public a trailhead and parking area for the popular recreation spot.

Municipal and Eklutna officials signed a memorandum of understanding Feb. 14 stating they will make a mutual effort to reach a binding agreement to complete the land exchange approved by voters in 2006.

Recent appraisals completed by the municipality show the fair market value of the 80-acre Eklutna-owned parcel adjacent to Chugach State Park is approximately \$1.4 million. The 20-acre municipality-owned Edmonds Lake Park parcel plus the 7.95-acre access parcel have a fair market value of \$815,218, leaving a \$611,782 difference.

The remainder, after applying the state grant, will be paid for from the local parks and recreation budget.

"Basically, both parties have agreed to agree in the memorandum," Rodda said. "Now with the state funding, the municipality can meet the conditions of the land exchange the Eklutna board of directors has placed on the deal."

Rodda said while there are still some details to be worked out, the deal is close to being final.

"I anticipate we're probably close to having things ready for approval by mid- to late September," he said. "We have to work through the process on each little detail to make sure we don't leave something out that will come back later and bite us."

Reach the reporter at darrell.breese@alaskastar.com.

Long-awaited Baldy land swap deal signed

City, Eklutna ink agreement for access to Chugach State Park

By **DARRELL L. BREESE**

Three years of tension, filled with roadblocks, gates and limited access, came to an end Nov. 17, as the Municipality of Anchorage and Eklutna Inc. finalized a deal for a land swap that will ultimately provide public access to Mount Baldy.

Mayor Mark Begich and Eagle River-Chugiak Parks, Recreation and Community Development Director John Rodda attended the Eklutna Inc. Shareholders' Lunch Nov. 17 at the Downtown Marriott Hotel, where they signed off on the deal to trade 80 acres adjacent to the traditional Mount Baldy trailhead for nearly 28 acres near Edmonds Lake.

Eklutna Inc. CEO Curtis McQueen called the occasion of the signing a significant moment in the relationship between the municipality and Eklutna, adding that the Shareholders' Lunch was the perfect place to complete the deal.

"The setting was a wonderful backdrop to celebrate the cooperation between Eklutna (Inc.) and the municipality necessary to complete this deal," McQueen said.

In addition to Eklutna Inc. shareholders, Cook Inlet Regional Inc. (CIRI) President and CEO Margaret Brown attended the lunch.

"The synergy of the regional Native corporation and village corporation working with Anchorage is exciting," McQueen said. "They say Anchorage is the largest Native village, and the partnerships we've developed working together are a fine example of that."

Talks of the land trade began in 2006, when voters were asked to approve the trade of 20 acres of city land in Edmonds Lake Park to Eklutna for 80 acres adjacent to Chugach State Park to be used for parking and access to the Mount Baldy trailhead. During the April 2006 municipal election, 65 percent of voters approved the deal.

According to Rodda, the signing of the final agreement doesn't bring an end to the process.

"We still have a lot of work to do before we can formally close," he said. "Each of us has things to do. We have to formally survey and subdivide the Edmonds Lake parcel and identify the public easement so Eklutna can access the property through Edmonds Lake Park."

Rodda added Eklutna must also survey and identify existing public use easements on their Mount Baldy parcel.

"Another interesting thing about the Eklutna parcel is that CIRI owns the subsurface rights," he continued. "So we're asking that an agreement not to develop can be reached prior to closing. It'd be awful for us to have improved access and then have CIRI come in and start a mining operation."

Rodda said, a key element to making the deal possible has been the help from the State of Alaska and the efforts of the local legislative delegation, which secured \$375,000 to satisfy the conditions of the trade, making it an exchange of equal value for both parties.

The state grant is necessary to make up the difference in appraisals for the land being exchanged. The fair market value of the 80-acre Eklutna-owned parcel adjacent to Chugach State Park is approximately \$1.4 million. The 20-acre municipality-owned Edmonds Lake Park parcel, plus the 7.95 acres needed to access the parcel has a fair market value of \$815,218, leaving a \$611,782 difference.

Money from the local parks and rec budget will pay the remaining \$237,000 after the state grant money is applied to the deal.

Access to Mount Baldy was limited in 2004 when the owner of land adjacent to Chugach State Park applied to rezone the property, which had been used as the traditional trailhead and parking area. After a barricade was constructed blocking access to the portion of the property used for trail access, the municipality turned to voters to approve the land swap.

According to Rodda, there is still a long way to go before the deal is done, and that is delaying any major renovations to the trailhead by the parks and rec department.

"We're targeting June 28 for the final closing," he said. "That will give both sides the time necessary to get approval by the planning commission and tie up any loopholes. This process took much longer than anticipated, but we're nearing the end of the road."

As for Eklutna's plans for the property, McQueen said nothing is in the works.

"We have no immediate plans for the property," he said. "It will likely sit there for future generations to determine what to do with it 20 or 50 years from now."

McQueen did say Eklutna would get the parcel rezoned before adding it to their inventory of property.

Reach the reporter at darrell.breese@alaskastar.com.

This article published in The Alaska Star on Thursday, November 29, 2007.



CIRI

Representative Bill Stoltze
Alaska State Legislature
Attn: Ben Mulligan
State Capital Room 501
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Re: Letter of Support for HB 356

Dear Representative Stoltze:

I am writing, on behalf of Cook Inlet Region Inc., to express the company's strong support for HB 356, which would extend to municipal land trades the same tax treatment which ANCSA corporations receive in the case of land trades with the state and federal governments. The legislation is not only a basic fairness measure, in terms of creating parity with the state and federal tax schemes, it is also a practical, "win-win" solution which will give municipalities the opportunity to improve the quality of municipal parklands and other public landholdings for the benefit of their residents.

The Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971 ("ANCSA") distributed 40 million acres of land in Alaska among 12 regional corporations and more than 200 village corporations owned by Alaska Native groups. The Act provided that ANCSA land, so long as it remained undeveloped, was not subject to taxation. From the earliest days of implementation of the Act, it became apparent there was value in permitting, and even encouraging, land trades between ANCSA corporations and public agencies where public ends could be served by such trades. Accordingly, federal law, initially through amendments to ANCSA and later in provisions of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA), ensured that such trades could occur without altering the basic tax protections afforded under ANCSA. It did so by extending ANCSA's tax protections to land traded with the state or federal government in exchange for ANCSA land. These measures have allowed hundreds of thousands of acres to be added to state and national parks, to highway and road systems and to other public improvements. They have also facilitated responsible development of lands which would not otherwise have been available for development, providing valuable benefits to the state and to the Alaska Native community in the form of jobs, tax revenue and other benefits.

The federal provisions have never expressly addressed municipal land trades, and the state's taxing scheme, while exempting ANCSA land, does not expressly exempt land traded by a municipality in exchange for ANCSA land. As a result, ANCSA corporations may be reluctant to trade land with a municipality, even where valuable public purposes could be achieved by such trade. A case in point is the proposed land trade between Eklutna, Inc. and the Municipality of Anchorage, in which the Municipality hopes to gain

from Eklutna a critical local access route to Chugach State Park. ANCSA corporations such as Eklutna are, understandably, reluctant to trade a parcel which is tax-free under ANCSA for one of equal value that may be immediately subject to taxation. Eklutna is not alone. CIRI, too, is a large holder of ANCSA lands in the Anchorage vicinity and has at various times had discussions with the City about possible land exchanges which could make lands available for parks, recreation and other public uses. The lack of any express provision, like HB 356, which authoritatively addresses the tax question, stands as a substantial barrier to such trades.

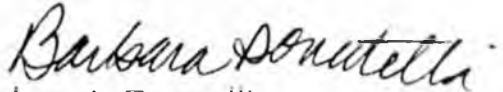
Finally, it is important to keep two additional points in mind. First, this measure does not force any land trade; any such trade would still be required to go through a full public vetting process before it could be completed. Second, the measure creates no net loss of property tax revenue; leaving the current system in place means that ANCSA corporations will simply hold on to their tax-free parcels, with the unfortunate result that the public purposes of proposed land exchanges will not be achieved.

In summary, we believe HB 356 is an important clarification of state tax law related to taxation of ANCSA lands which will serve valuable public purposes. CIRI strongly supports the measure and urges its adoption.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

Sincerely,

COOK INLET REGION, INC.



Barbara A. Donatelli,
Senior Vice President, Administration and Government Relations



CIRI

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Alaska State Legislature
Attn: Ben Mulligan
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The Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971 ("ANCSA") distributed 40 million acres of land in Alaska among 12 regional corporations and more than 200 village corporations owned by Alaska Native groups. The Act provided that ANCSA land, so long as it remained undeveloped, was not subject to taxation. From the earliest days of implementation of the Act, it became apparent there was value in permitting, and even encouraging, land trades between ANCSA corporations and public agencies where public ends could be served by such trades. Accordingly, federal law, initially through amendments to ANCSA and later in provisions of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA), ensured that such trades could occur without altering the basic tax protections afforded under ANCSA. It did so by extending ANCSA's tax protections to land traded with the state or federal government in exchange for ANCSA land. These measures have allowed hundreds of thousands of acres to be added to state and national parks, to highway and road systems and to other public improvements. They have also facilitated responsible development of lands which would not otherwise have been available for development, providing valuable benefits to the state and to the Alaska Native community in the form of jobs, tax revenue and other benefits.

The federal provisions have never expressly addressed municipal land trades, and the state's taxing scheme, while exempting ANCSA land, does not expressly exempt land traded by a municipality in exchange for ANCSA land. As a result, ANCSA corporations may be reluctant to trade land with a municipality, even where valuable public purposes could be achieved by such trade. A case in point is the proposed land trade between Eklutna, Inc. and the Municipality of Anchorage, in which the Municipality hopes to gain

from Eklutna a critical local access route to Chugach State Park. ANCSA corporations such as Eklutna are, understandably, reluctant to trade a parcel which is tax-free under ANCSA for one of equal value that may be immediately subject to taxation. Eklutna is not alone. CIRI, too, is a large holder of ANCSA lands in the Anchorage vicinity and has at various times had discussions with the City about possible land exchanges which could make lands available for parks, recreation and other public uses. The lack of any express provision, like HB 356, which authoritatively addresses the tax question, stands as a substantial barrier to such trades.

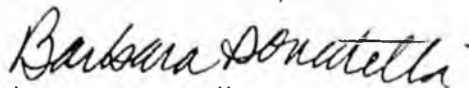
Finally, it is important to keep two additional points in mind. First, this measure does not force any land trade; any such trade would still be required to go through a full public vetting process before it could be completed. Second, the measure creates no net loss of property tax revenue; leaving the current system in place means that ANCSA corporations will simply hold on to their tax-free parcels, with the unfortunate result that the public purposes of proposed land exchanges will not be achieved.

In summary, we believe HB 356 is an important clarification of state tax law related to taxation of ANCSA lands which will serve valuable public purposes. CIRI strongly supports the measure and urges its adoption.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

Sincerely,

COOK INLET REGION, INC.



Barbara A. Donatelli,
Senior Vice President, Administration and Government Relations

HB

369

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
Rep. Carl Gatto



MEMORANDUM

Date: March 13, 2008

TO: Representative Anna Fairclough,
Co-Chair, House Community & Regional Affairs Committee

From: Representative Carl Gatto

Re: Request for Hearing, House Bill 369

Enclosed you will find a committee packet for HB 369 "An Act relating to certain grants awarded by the Department of Environmental Conservation." A sponsor statement, bill, and other supplemental material are attached.

I would appreciate a hearing before your Community & Regional Affairs Committee at the earliest convenience.

Please contact my staff member, Rick VanderKolk at ext. 5025, with any questions or comments regarding this request.

Thank you for your consideration.

Alaska State Legislature

Interim:
600 E. Railroad Ave
Wasilla, AK 99654

Phone: (907) 376-3725
Fax: (907) 376-4768



Session:
Alaska State Capitol, Rm 108
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Phone: (907) 465-3743
Fax: (907) 465-2381
Toll Free: (800) 565-3743
Rep_Carl_Gatto@legis.state.ak.us

Representative Carl Gatto
Co-Chair, House Resources Committee
District 13 - Palmer

SPONSOR STATEMENT HB 369

"An Act relating to certain grants awarded by the Department of Environmental Conservation."

House Bill 369 amends the state's municipal match rate formula for water quality enhancement, water supply, sewage, and solid waste project grants. Under current law ((AS 46.030(e)(2)) the percentage of municipal grant eligibility is based on population:

- 85% for 1,000 residents or fewer
- 70% for 1,001 – 5,000 residents
- 50% for those municipalities with more than 5,000 residents

House Bill 369 proposes amending the state-match formula to:

- 85% for 1,000 residents or fewer
- 70% for 1,001 – 10,000 residents
- 50% for those municipalities with more than 10,000 residents

The proposed change recognizes a number of Alaska's cities that do not have an adequate, growing tax base to absorb 30% of water treatment project costs:

1. Sitka	8,833
2. Ketchikan	7,622
3. Kenai	6,864
4. Wasilla	6,775
5. Kodiak	5,937
6. Bethel	5,812
7. Palmer	5,574
8. Homer	5,454

The intent of HB369 is to not only restore some equity in state-match funding among our cities but to also reward our communities in their efforts to foster economic development.

Amending the population threshold requirement for grant eligibility does not necessitate conforming changes elsewhere in statute. According to DEC, this bill will not impose any other programmatic impacts.

Your support for this proposal is requested and appreciated.

LEGAL SERVICES

DIVISION OF LEGAL AND RESEARCH SERVICES
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENCY
STATE OF ALASKA

(907) 465-3887 or 465-2450
FAX (907) 465-2029
Mail Stop 3101

State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
Deliveries to: 129 6th St., Rm 329

MEMORANDUM

February 7, 2008

SUBJECT: Determination of certain grant amounts awarded by the Department of Environmental Conservation (Work Order No. 25-LS1445\A)

TO: Senator Lyda Green
Attn: Ginger Blaisdell

FROM: Alpheus Bullard *AB*
Legislative Counsel

This memorandum accompanies the draft bill you requested.

Ginger Blaisdell of your office had asked if the formula employed in determining what percentage of a municipal water quality enhancement, water supply, sewage, or solid waste project's cost could be met by a grant made by the Department of Environmental Conservation under AS 46.03.030(e)¹ was found elsewhere in the Alaska statutes.

Under AS 46.03.030(e)(2) the percentage of a municipal project's costs eligible for a grant is based on community population size. For a community with a population of (1) 1,000 persons or less, a grant is not to exceed 85 percent of a project's eligible costs, (2) 1,001 to 5,000 persons, a grant is not to exceed 70 percent of a project's eligible costs, and (3) 5,000 persons or more, a grant is not to exceed 50 percent of a project's eligible costs (unless the project relates to certain solid waste processing or disposal systems, in

¹ AS 46.03.030(e) provides in relevant part,

[a] grant under [AS 46.03.030] to a municipality for a project funded by an appropriation made by the legislature . . . may not exceed

(A) 85 percent of the eligible costs for a municipality with a population of 1,000 persons or less;

(B) 70 percent of the eligible costs for a municipality with a population of 1,001 to 5,000 persons; and

(C) 50 percent of the eligible costs for a municipality with a population greater than 5,000 persons; however, if a municipality with a population greater than 5,000 persons seeks a grant for a project that relates to a solid waste processing or disposal system that incorporates resource recovery, the department may provide a grant for up to 60 percent of the eligible costs of the project.

Senator Lyda Green
February 7, 2008
Page 2

which case the Department of Environmental Conservation may provide a grant for up to 60 percent of the project's eligible costs).

While community population size is a factor in the determination of other grants, the 85, 70, 50/60 percent formula for communities of 1,000 or fewer, 1,001 to 5,000, and 5,000 or more persons is unique to AS 46.03.030.

Changing what percentage of project costs are eligible for a grant under AS 46.03.030 does not necessitate conforming changes elsewhere in the Alaska statutes.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

ALB:lmb
08-016.lmb

Enclosure

Senator Green Report

		Current 50/50 Project Cost Sharing		Proposed 70/30 Project Cost Sharing		Difference Between 50/50 and 70/30 Project Sharing	
		State	Local	State	Local	State	Local
SFY 2007 Projects							
Homer	Water Treatment Plant Upgrades	\$1,062,727	\$1,062,727	\$1,487,818	\$637,636	\$425,091	-\$425,091
Ketchikan	Tongass Avenue Water and Sewer Phase 3	\$1,884,179	\$1,884,179	\$2,637,851	\$1,130,507	\$753,672	-\$753,672
Palmer	Steel Water Main Replacement Phase 5	\$1,016,964	\$1,016,964	\$1,423,750	\$610,178	\$406,786	\$406,786
Sitka	Kimsham Landfill Closure	\$1,220,356	\$1,220,356	\$1,708,498	\$732,214	\$488,142	-\$488,142
<i>SFY 2007 Total</i>		<i>\$5,184,226</i>	<i>\$5,184,226</i>	<i>\$7,257,916</i>	<i>\$3,110,536</i>	<i>\$2,073,690</i>	<i>-\$2,073,690</i>

SFY 2008 Projects							
Homer	Water Treatment Plant Upgrade Phase 3	\$1,310,160	\$1,310,160	\$1,834,224	\$786,096	\$524,064	-\$524,064
Kenai	Water Treatment Plant Upgrades Phase 3	\$648,945	\$648,945	\$908,523	\$389,367	\$259,578	-\$259,578
Ketchikan	Disinfection By-Products Reduction Project	\$3,347,500	\$3,347,500	\$4,686,500	\$2,008,500	\$1,339,000	-\$1,339,000
Kodiak	Aleutian Homes Water and Sewer Replacement, Phase 2	\$1,525,400	\$1,525,400	\$2,135,560	\$915,240	\$610,160	-\$610,160
Palmer	Water Main Replacement, Phase 5	\$1,035,000	\$1,035,000	\$1,449,000	\$621,000	\$414,000	-\$414,000
Sitka	Cove Lift Station Replacement	\$155,300	\$155,300	\$217,420	\$93,180	\$62,120	-\$62,120
Sitka	Japonski Island Submarine Water Crossing	\$776,300	\$776,300	\$1,086,820	\$465,780	\$310,520	-\$310,520
Sitka	Water Distribution System Improvements	\$466,785	\$466,785	\$653,499	\$280,071	\$186,714	-\$186,714
Wasilla	Garden Terrace Water Main Extension, Phase 2	\$1,376,100	\$1,376,100	\$1,926,540	\$825,660	\$550,440	-\$550,440
<i>SFY 2008 Total</i>		<i>\$10,641,490</i>	<i>\$10,641,490</i>	<i>\$14,898,086</i>	<i>\$6,384,894</i>	<i>\$4,256,596</i>	<i>-\$4,256,596</i>

SFY 2009 Projects							
Homer	Water Treatment Plant Upgrade	\$1,236,000	\$1,236,000	\$1,730,400	\$741,600	\$494,400	-\$494,400
Kenai	New Water Transmission Main Phase II Wellhouse	\$698,625	\$698,625	\$978,075	\$419,175	\$279,450	-\$279,450
Kodiak	Aleutian Homes Water and Sewer Replacement, Phase 4	\$1,297,800	\$1,297,800	\$1,816,920	\$778,680	\$519,120	-\$519,120
Kodiak	Ultraviolet Secondary Water Treatment Facility	\$2,060,000	\$2,060,000	\$2,884,000	\$1,236,000	\$824,000	-\$824,000
Palmer	Steel Water Main Replacement Phase 6	\$1,369,793	\$1,369,793	\$1,917,710	\$821,876	\$547,917	-\$547,917
Palmer	Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements Design	\$148,781	\$148,781	\$208,293	\$89,269	\$59,512	-\$59,512
Palmer	Southwest Utility Extension Phase II	\$1,766,605	\$1,766,605	\$2,473,247	\$1,059,963	\$706,642	-\$706,642
Wasilla	Mission Hills Water Extension	\$724,500	\$724,500	\$1,014,300	\$434,700	\$289,800	-\$289,800
<i>SFY 2009 Total</i>		<i>\$9,302,104</i>	<i>\$9,302,104</i>	<i>\$13,022,946</i>	<i>\$5,581,262</i>	<i>\$3,720,842</i>	<i>-\$3,720,842</i>



217 Second Street, Suite 200 • Juneau, Alaska 99801
Tel (907) 586-1325 • Fax (907) 463-5480 • www.akml.org

February 20, 2008

Representative Carl Gatto
Room 108
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Representative Gatto,

The Alaska Municipal League would like to thank you for the submission of HB 369. This bill is fully supported by the League and its municipal members. If this bill does not pass, it will severely impact many communities in Alaska that find themselves receiving less help in order to help more people.

This bill's passage would positively impact Bethel, Palmer, Homer, Kenai, Ketchikan, Kodiak, North Slope Borough, Northwest Arctic Borough Sitka, and Wasilla. There are a few communities that are right on the cusp of 5,000 people (Valdez, Unalaska and Barrow).

We think it is important that cities that thrive and grow their economy should be eligible for grant funds in an amount that allow them to provide for the additional people added to their population.

Again, we thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,

Kathie Wasserman

Kathie Wasserman
Executive Director

cc: House C&RA members
Bill Allen, City of Palmer

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2008 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: _____
Bill Version: HB369
() Publish Date: _____

Identifier (file name): HB369-DEC-FC-03-21-08 Dept. Affected: Department of Environmental Conservation
Title: An Act relating to certain grants awarded by DEC RDU: Division of Water
Sponsor: Representative Gatto Component: Facilities Construction
Requester: House Community & Regional Affairs Component Number: 637

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

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

	Appropriation Required		Information				
	FY 2009	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
OPERATING EXPENDITURES							
Personal Services							
Travel							
Contractual							
Supplies							
Equipment							
Land & Structures							
Grants & Claims							
Miscellaneous							
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	3,720.8		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
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CHANGE IN REVENUES (1004 GF)	3,720.8		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
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FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts							
1003 GF Match							
1004 GF							
1005 GF/Program Receipts							
1037 GF/Mental Health							
Other Interagency Receipts							
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2008) cost: _____

POSITIONS

Full-time							
Part-time							
Temporary							

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Capital expenditures are based on the assumption that the bill will only affect grants made beginning in FY2009 and later, and will not affect grants made prior to FY2009. The FY2009 capital cost projection is based on the increased costs to the state associated with providing 70% of project costs, instead of 50% of project costs, for projects in communities with populations between 5,000 and 10,000 included in FY2009 capital budget bills HR311 and SB221.

Detailed information about FY2009 projects and increased costs to the state are included on the next page.

Prepared by: Lynn J. Tomich Kent, Director
Division: Water
Approved by: Dan Easton
Department of Environmental Conservation

Phone: 907-269-7599
Date/Time: 3/21/08 3:51 PM
Date: 3/21/2008

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2008 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HB369

ANALYSIS CONTINUATION

FY2009 Projects	Current 50/50 Project Cost Sharing		Proposed 70/30 Project Cost Sharing		Difference Between 50/50 and 70/30 Project	
	State	Local	State	Local	State	Local
Homer Water Treatment Plant Upgrade	\$1,238,000	\$1,236,000	\$1,730,400	\$741,600	\$494,400	-\$494,400
Kenai New Water Transmission Main Phase II Wellhouse	\$698,625	\$698,625	\$978,075	\$419,175	\$279,450	-\$279,450
Kodiak Aleutian Homes Water & Sewer Replacement Ph 4	\$1,297,800	\$1,297,800	\$1,816,920	\$778,680	\$519,120	-\$519,120
Kodiak Ultraviolet Secondary Water Treatment Facility	\$2,060,000	\$2,060,000	\$2,884,000	\$1,236,000	\$824,000	-\$824,000
Palmer Steel Water Main Replacement Phase 6	\$1,369,793	\$1,369,793	\$1,917,710	\$821,876	\$547,917	-\$547,917
Palmer Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements Design	\$148,781	\$148,781	\$208,293	\$89,269	\$59,512	-\$59,512
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Wasilla Mission Hills Water Extension	\$724,500	\$724,500	\$1,014,300	\$434,700	\$289,800	-\$289,800
<i>FY 2009 Total</i>	<i>\$9,302,104</i>	<i>\$9,302,104</i>	<i>\$13,022,946</i>	<i>\$5,581,262</i>	<i>\$3,720,842</i>	<i>-\$3,720,842</i>

HB

387

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Juneau

State Capitol Bldg. Rm 422
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
Phone (907) 465-4930
Fax (907) 465-3834
1-800-331-4930



Anchorage

716 W. 4th Avenue
Anchorage, AK 99501
Phone (907) 269-0174
Fax (907) 269-0177

Representative Berta Gardner

House District 24

SPONSOR STATEMENT

HB 387

"An Act limiting the number of published telephone directories that may be distributed to a household."

Telephone distributors and publishers are currently delivering a phone book for every phone line in the state. Households that have multiple lines receive more than one phone book or set of phone books, creating not just an inconvenience to the resident but also recycling and land-fill issues.

HB 387 addresses this waste and nuisance by limiting the publishers and distributors to delivery of one book, or set of books, unless a resident requests more.

In 2007, from April to August, the Anchorage recycling center collected 284 tons of phone books. This however does not include books that were simply thrown away or put into mixed paper bins at the recycling center. A phone book consists of low grade paper and is difficult to recycle compared to other paper products. This bill will reduce the burden on the recycling centers of Alaska.

While other states introduced legislation that instituted an opt-out directory to address this issue, HB 387 is a simplified alternative. Because this bill continues to allow publishers and distributors to dispense their telephone directory to each household there is no substantial hindrance on free market competition.

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Juneau

State Capitol Bldg. Rm 422
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
Phone (907) 465-4930
Fax (907) 465-3834
1-800-331-4930



Anchorage

716 W. 4th Avenue
Anchorage, AK 99501
Phone (907) 269-0174
Fax (907) 269-0177

Representative Berta Gardner

House District 24

Sectional Analysis

House Bill 387

“An Act limiting the number of published telephone directories that may be distributed to a household.”

HB 387 amends Alaska Statute section 42.05 and 45.50 to add a new section to limit telephone directory distribution to one per household per utility.

- Section 1** Limits to one the number of directories a telephone utility can distribute to a household. A member of the household can request additional copies.
- Section 2** Requires a telephone utility that does not gross \$50,000 annually to comply with Section 1
- Section 3** Requires a telephone utility that does not gross \$500,000 annually to comply with Section 1
- Section 4** For the purposes of this bill, includes publishers, distributors, or providers in limiting the distribution of telephone directories.



Alaska Conservation Alliance

Uniting for Alaska's Future

March 4, 2008

The Honorable Representative Gardner
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Re: HB 387 – Distribution of Telephone Books

Dear Representative Gardner,

On behalf of the Alaska Conservation Alliance (ACA), a consortium of 40 Alaska-based conservation groups, I would like to express our support for HB 387, an act limiting the number of published telephone directories a utility may distribute to a household.

Delivering multiple phonebooks to a single household increases the demand for paper products and ultimately places more and more discarded and unused phonebooks in our landfills. Increased waste in landfills increases the operating costs for municipalities. Producing and distributing these extra phonebooks also adds costs for utilities.

By limiting utilities to only one phonebook per household this bill is decreasing the use of paper, decreasing the number of phonebooks going into landfills (thus decreasing cost to municipalities) and decreasing the cost to utilities by allowing them to produce and distribute fewer phonebooks. I strongly encourage the Alaska Legislature to pass HB 387. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Kate Troll
Executive Director

Jim Isturis

From: M. Anne Brooks [annebrooks@ak.net]
Sent: Tuesday, March 04, 2008 4:17 PM
To: Jim Isturis
Subject: Support for HB 387

Wow -- every time I receive phone books -- three at my home, three at my small 2-person household; and that is just from one company because I also get phone books from other companies; I think what the heck can I do to stop this waste of resources. Today I open my email and find out that something is being done! Yea! Good legislation that will help so some of the way towards reducing waste of resources.

I fully support this legislation and thank Rep. Berta Gardner for sponsoring it.

--
Anne Brooks
1704 Bannister Road
Anchorage, AK 99508

Jim Isturis

From: Charlotte Sartor [cbsartor@gmail.com]

Sent: Tuesday, March 04, 2008 4:49 PM

To: Jim Isturis

Subject: Support HB 387

Please support HB 387 to limit the distribution of phone books.

The number of phone books that households receive each year is truly appalling. It is a waste of resources that also contributes to filling our valuable landfills with trash.

As a frequent volunteer at the Valley recycling center I have heard numerous complaints about the number of phone books received. And that is from those who recycle them rather than throwing them in the trash.

Unfortunately I think that a big part of the problem is that we get phone books from numerous different companies. This bill does not seem to address that and I'm not sure how it can be addressed. But maybe a bill such as this will at least put them on notice that a large part of the population is fed up with the waste involved with this needless duplication.

Charlotte Sartor
5900 S. Our Rd
Palmer, AK 99645

Jim Isturis

From: PETER MAASSEN and KAY GOUWENS [pmaassen@prodigy.net]

Sent: Tuesday, March 04, 2008 5:11 PM

To: Jim Isturis

Subject: Phone directories bill -- brilliant!

Berta, I strongly support your bill to limit to one the number of phone directories routinely distributed to each household. It's one of those things that seems so obvious once someone has come up with the idea, like so many brilliant ideas do. Thanks for sponsoring this bill: cumulatively, small-ish measures like this could help save our planet -- or at least reduce the poundage we all carry to the recycling center each year. Sincerely, Kay Gouwens, 1135 G Street, Anchorage 99501.

Jim Isturis

From: Annabelle A [abella322@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 04, 2008 5:16 PM
To: Jim Isturis
Subject: HB 387 The Distribution of Telephone Directories

This bill would reduce waste, conserve resources (raw materials and production costs), cut business expenses, extend the life of limited landfill/dump space, and eliminate the equivalent of at least a couple of pounds of junk mail---what's not to like?

But this great bill reeks of common sense and practicality. Does it have a chance?

Good luck!
Annabelle

Kotzebue, AK 99752
Wk 907-442-2500 x119

"The serious challenges we face cannot be solved by the same mentality that created them."

Looking for last minute shopping deals?
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Jim Isturis

From: Karol Fink [karolfink@yahoo.com]

Sent: Tuesday, March 04, 2008 5:33 PM

To: Jim Isturis

Subject: support HB 387 The Distribution of Telephone Directories

I'd love to reduce the amount of phone books I get.

I never use them b/c I use the Internet now for that type of information. I don't even have a home phone - only a mobile and I still get phone books.

I am stuck hauling them to the recycling center for me and my disabled neighbor who can't even lift those heavy awkward books- what a waste of resources and my time.

Thanks for support HB 385

Karol Fink | (907) 227-8178 | karolfink@yahoo.com

Never miss a thing. Make Yahoo your homepage.

Jim Isturis

From: Curtis Townsend [curtistownsend@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 05, 2008 7:06 AM
To: Jim Isturis
Subject: I support HB 387

I support the proposal that would limit the amount of phonebooks delivered to a household. This last year alone, we have received at least 5 different phone books. I think that is 5 too many to be honest.

I have at least recycled them though.

Thank you for representing my interests.

Curtis Townsend
16510 Centerfield Dr D11
Eagle River AK 99577

--
><('>)><('>)><('>



March 10, 2008

The Honorable Anna Fairclough, Co-Chair
House Community and Regional Affairs Committee
Alaska State Capitol, Room 411
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

The Honorable Gabrielle LeDoux, Co-Chair
House Community and Regional Affairs Committee
Alaska State Capitol, Room 412
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

HB 308 (Nelson)—Support

Dear Co-Chairs Fairclough and LeDoux:

On behalf of the members of AARP in Alaska, we urge you and your colleagues on the House Community and Regional Affairs Committee to support HB 308, authored by Representative Mary Nelson and co-sponsored by your Committee colleague Representative Woodie Salmon and Representatives Bob Buch and Beth Kerttula.

Several states supplement the federal funding for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). Alaska does not.

HB 308 would raise eligibility for financial assistance with heating bills from 150% of the federal poverty level to 175%. For a single person, the eligibility level would go from \$19,500 to \$22,750. For a couple, eligibility would rise from \$25,250 to \$30,625. This is the same eligibility standards that the Legislature recently adopted for the Alaska Senior Benefits Program.

The current Alaska Heating Assistance Program considers eligibility on a variety of factors. Income is only one consideration. Household size, the source of heat, the community one lives in, type of residence, etc., are all factors that are used to determine eligibility. The stipend, in most cases, goes to the utility provider, not the individual. HB 308 would only raise the income eligibility level. The other factors in determining whether a household will receive assistance would still apply.

You know from your own heating bills what has happened over the past few years. More and more Alaskans are having trouble with their heating costs.

From October to December, 2007, we surveyed our members in Alaska. The results on our questions on energy costs reinforce our interest in supporting HB 308.

ACTION TAKEN	<20k	20k-50k	50k-75k	75k+
Lowered home heat substantially	58%	47%	38%	31%
Cut down on use of appliances	49%	32%	23%	22%
Cut back on necessities (defined as food and medicine)	46%	28%	18%	8%
Closed off part of home	30%	17%	10%	13%
Turned off heat in home	16%	10%	5%	7%
Used kitchen range as heater	12%	8%	3%	1%
Stopped using appliances	10%	7%	3%	2%

This survey was conducted of AARP members. Our members tend to have higher educational levels and higher incomes than the overall Alaska population over age 50. It is logical to expect that the general population over age 50 are having even more problems with utility bills.

On average, older people spend 90% of their time in their homes. They can't (and shouldn't) turn down their thermostat during the day. AARP believes that HB 308 will enable more lower income Alaskans to get at least some minimum assistance with their heating bills. We hope it will also result in less dangerous and less healthy behaviors by citizens trying to cut their utility costs.

AARP recommends an "AYE" vote on HB 308.

Should you have any questions about our position, please feel free to contact me (586-3637) or Patrick Luby, AARP Advocacy Director (907-762-3314).

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Marie Darlin, Coordinator
AARP Capital City Task Force
415 Willoughby Avenue, Apt. 506
Juneau, AK 99801
586-3637 (voice)
463-3580 (fax)

CC: Representative Nancy Dahlstrom
Representative Sharon Cissna
Representative Mark Neuman
Representative Kurt Olson

Representative Woodie Salmon
Representative Mary Nelson

RECYCLING 101: TELEPHONE DIRECTORIES

This is the sixteenth in a series of articles about recycling in Anchorage. This is the season that we all get a new phone book and we wonder what to do with all the old ones. Businesses especially often receive dozens and sometimes hundreds of books. This means that there are usually that many old books to get rid of. Here's some information about what you can do with the old books.

The National Picture

In 1999, 680,000 tons of waste telephone directories were generated. Of this quantity, 110,000 tons were collected for recycling, or just 16.2% of the total quantity generated, leaving 570,000 tons to be disposed.

Telephone Directories in Anchorage

Although the 1997 waste sort conducted in Anchorage did not specifically look at phone books, we might assume that they fall under the category of "other paper." Therefore, 19,562 tons of paper other than cardboard, office paper, mixed paper, and newsprint, were generated in 1997 in Anchorage. A portion of this quantity represents waste telephone books.

In 2001, Anchorage businesses and residents recycled approximately 176 tons of phone books. In 2000, 150 tons were collected for recycling. Before that, about 220 tons were collected annually. The drop in recycling during the past few years may be attributed to a lack of information provided in the phone books about how and where to recycle during those years.

How Do I Recycle Telephone Directories?

Recycling bins for phone books will be available throughout Anchorage, in Eagle River, and at Fort Richardson starting May 20th and continuing until July 1st. Look for bins at Carrs stores where you usually take your newspapers and aluminum cans. This includes the Eagle River store. Bins also will be located at the Anchorage Recycling Center, off of Dowling, at the old PX on base at Fort Richardson, and at ACS offices at 600 Telephone Avenue.

A phone book collection bin will remain available at the Anchorage Recycling Center beyond the end date of July 1st until August 1st for any late recyclers.

If you have more than 30 sets of books to recycle, call the ACS hotline and ACS will arrange to have the books picked up for recycling.

At other times of the year, when bins specifically designated for phone books are not available, phone books may be placed in mixed paper bins.

How Can I Reduce Telephone Directories?

Phone book deliveries are typically based on the number of phone lines in a home or workplace. So everyone who has a phone gets a set of books. ACS contacts larger businesses each year to ask about the quantities needed but besides that, it is up to you to make the effort to reduce the number of books you receive.

If your workplace receives more phone books than necessary -- and let's face it, you really don't need a set of books for each and every employee -- you can call the phone company before books are delivered and let them know how many sets of books you need. They may be able deliver fewer books.

Even if you are not able to call them and let your phone company know of the reduction before they print the books, ACS determines how many will be printed the following year by first checking to see how many books remain in its warehouse. For this reason, extra books are better off in the ACS warehouse than they are in your warehouse or storeroom. Your efforts will mean that fewer books are printed next year. Call the ACS business office to let them know how many you need. ACS says that April is the best month to call.

With fewer books in your workplace, you may want to keep several sets of phone books in a central location for all to use. Printing fewer books conserves resources, reduces transportation costs for phone book delivery, and saves space in your office.

If you receive MTA phone books, contact MTA directly to determine ways to reduce the number received or for additional recycling opportunities.

Resources

Alaska Communications Systems
600 Telephone Avenue, Anchorage
Hotline (operation starts in mid-May) 566-4718
Business office 563-2020

Matanuska Telephone Association
1740 S. Chugach Street, Palmer
Directory Coordinator (907) 761-2787

Anchorage Refuse (A Waste Management Company)
Doug Daniels
6301 Rosewood Street, Anchorage
563-3717

Anchorage Recycling Center (Smurfit-Stone Recycling Company)
Guy Barton
6161 Rosewood Street, Anchorage
562-2267



City Notes

An Informational Newsletter for Amarillo Residents

April 2006

Keep Amarillo Beautiful Kicked Off Annual Telephone Book Recycling Project

Keep Amarillo Beautiful kicked off its 15th annual telephone book recycling project on Monday, March 6, 2006 and runs through Saturday, April 29, 2006. Co-sponsors are AT&T Yellow Pages and Great Western Directories, Inc.

Twenty-four hour drop-off locations are located at the southeast corner of Western Plaza, 2201 S. Western, for the Keep Amarillo Beautiful bins and at 27th Avenue and Hayes Street (across from Llano Cemetery) for the City Recycling Drop-Off Center. Canyon City Hall, 301 16th Street in Canyon accepts books weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Telephone books should be placed in bins labeled "Telephone Books Only." Other items, such as newspapers, magazines and catalogs cannot be accepted in these receptacles. No sacks or plastic bags should be put in the drop-off containers.

Delivery of the AT&T Yellow Pages telephone book began February 16 and the Greater Amarillo book began March

1. Each company plans to have all books delivered within one month from the starting date. Many of the towns, including the City of Canyon, will bring their old telephone books to Amarillo. These towns and many large businesses arrange to take their books to BFI Recyclery at 803 S. Garfield from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. BFI's telephone number is (806) 374-7425.

Don't throw away those old telephone books: recycle them. The community-wide project is an environmental effort that conserves landfill space by collecting outdated directories for recycling. Telephone books account for about 8% of paper products in landfill space and they never decompose. For each ton of recycled directories an estimated 17 large trees are saved as well as 3.3 cubic yards of landfill space. For comparison, local dumpsters have a capacity of 3 cubic yards. This year BFI Recyclery will box the old telephone books and ship them to Atlas Roofing in Ardmore, Oklahoma to be made into roofing shingles.

For more information call Dusty McGuire at (806) 355-8757 or Michael Rice at (806) 378-9337.



Twenty-four hour telephone book recycling drop-off locations:

- Southeast Corner of Western Plaza
- Recycling Drop-Off Center at 27th and Hayes (across from Llano Cemetery)

Public Health Department to Offer Immunization Clinics

BE WISE, IMMUNIZE! Protect your children and your community from infectious diseases. Bring your child to one of the following immunization clinics:

Glenwood Elementary

April 11 and May 9:

2407 S. Houston, 2:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Sanborn Elementary

April 13 and May 11:

700 S. Roberts, 2:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Hamlet Elementary

April 18 and May 16:

705 Sycamore, 2:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Immunizations will be offered for a minimum charge of \$5 for one shot or \$10 for two or more. However, no child will be turned away due to inability to pay. Parents must accompany their children and provide a copy of each child's immunization record. For more information, call 351-7326.



Protect your children from infectious diseases!
BE WISE, IMMUNIZE!



ALASKA CENTER *for the* ENVIRONMENT

807 G Street, Suite 100 * Anchorage, Alaska 99501

907-274-3621 phone * 907-274-8733 fax * ace@akcenter.org * www.akcenter.org

The Honorable Berta Gardner
House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 422
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

February 15, 2008

Dear Representative Gardner,

Alaska Center for the Environment (ACE) and our members would like to commend you for introducing "An Act Limiting the Number of Published Telephone Directories a Utility may distribute to a Household." ACE is a non-profit environmental education and advocacy organization. Founded by a group of concerned Alaskans in 1971, ACE is the largest grassroots conservation organization in Alaska with over 6,000 members.

Thousands of Alaskans find expression for their conservation values through membership in ACE's values of balance, common sense, and long-range stewardship in managing our natural resources. This bill promotes one of ACE's primary objectives of building and maintaining healthy sustainable communities. By reducing the amount of telephone directories a utility is allowed to distribute you are encouraging reasonable solutions to the increased waste that is created. In return, Alaska is saving energy and resources used during the production of these materials.

We applaud your efforts in promoting such a common sense bill.

Sincerely,

Eric Uhde
Public Lands Advocate

Jim Isturis

From: Tenge, Robert J. [RTENGE@SMURFIT.COM]
Sent: Tuesday, February 19, 2008 10:21 AM
To: Jim Isturis
Subject: Phone Books

Jim,

We show recycling 252 tons of phone books this last year in 2007.

Bob Tenge
Anchorage Plant Manager
Smurfit-Stone Reclamation
6161 Rosewood Street
907-565-4488

Does not include mixed paper,
or trash.

Sent: Thursday, February 07, 2008 8:40 PM

To: Rep. Berta Gardner

Subject: Phone Book Bill

Dear Representative Gardner,

Hooray for you for writing this piece of legislation. I have 4 phones in my home and I received 17 phone books! (3-white pgs, 4-ACS Mobile companion, 3-Eagle River, 1-ACS Shoppers Guide, 3-ACS Yellow Pages, and 3-Matanuska Phone Books)

I had so many books, I took some back to the phone company. In my opinion, ONE set is enough for the household; and if a family wants more, all they have to do is request.

Thank you soooo much for this legislation.

Susan McDonald

Eagle River, Alaska

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2008 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: HB387SS-LAW-CIV-03-03-08
 Bill Version: SSH387
 () Publish Date: _____

Identifier (file name): _____ Dept. Affected: LAW
 Title: An Act relating to telephone directories RDU: Civil
 Component: Commercial & Fair Business
 Sponsor: REPRESENTATIVE(s) GARDNER
 Requester: HOUSE CRA Component Number: _____

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

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

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	Appropriation Required	Information					
	FY 2009	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
Personal Services	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Travel							
Contractual							
Supplies							
Equipment							
Land & Structures							
Grants & Claims							
Miscellaneous							
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES

CHANGE IN REVENUES ()

FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts							
1003 GF Match							
1004 GF	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1005 GF/Program Receipts							
1037 GF/Mental Health							
Other Interagency Receipts							
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2008) cost: 0.0

POSITIONS

Full-time							
Part-time							
Temporary							

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

HB 387 prohibits a telephone utility from delivering more than one published telephone directory, unless otherwise requested by a member of the household. This is not a consumer protection issue. Because the bill amends AS 42.05, it will be enforced by the RCA under AS 42.05.541 - 621. These sections allow the RCA to issue a penalty of up to \$100 per violation of the chapter. The penalty would be enforced by the Attorney General.

The department does not expect a significant fiscal impact as a result of this bill.

Prepared by: Robert Meiners, Administrative Services Manager Phone: 907-465-5427
 Division: Administrative Services Division Date/Time: 3.3.08 9:00 PM
 Approved by: Talis Colberg, Attorney General Date: 3.3.2008
Department of Law

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2008 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number _____
 Bill Version. SSHB 387
 () Publish Date _____

Identifier (file name) HB387SS-CED-RCA-03-03-08 Dept Affected DCCED
 Title Distribution of Telephone Books RDU Regulatory Commission of Alaska (399)
 Component Regulatory Commission of Alaska
 Sponsor Gardner, Gara
 Requester House Community & Regional Affairs Component Number 2417

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	Appropriation Required	Information					
	FY 2009	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
Personal Services							
Travel							
Contractual							
Supplies							
Equipment							
Land & Structures							
Grants & Claims							
Miscellaneous							
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

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

1002 Federal Receipts							
1003 GF Match							
1004 GF							
1005 GF/Program Receipts							
1037 GF/Mental Health							
1141 RCA Receipts							
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2008) cost: 0.0

POSITIONS

Full-time							
Part-time							
Temporary							

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

This legislation limits the number of published telephone directories a telephone utility may distribute to one per household each year, and amends AS 42 05 711(e) and (f) to ensure non-economically regulated utilities are subject to this limit

(ANALYSIS CONTINUED)

Prepared by Anthony A Price Chair
 Division Regulatory Commission of Alaska
 Approved by Emil R. Notti, Commissioner
 Agency Commerce, Community, and Economic Development

Phone 907 276 6222
 Date/Time 3/3/08 6 16 PM
 Date 3/3/2008

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2008 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. SSHB 387

ANALYSIS CONTINUATION

RCA regulations conflict with the proposed legislation (see 3 AAC 52.250). The RCA would incur the cost of a rulemaking proceeding to amend or repeal 3 AAC 52.250. Costs of the proceeding would include publishing a notice of proposed action, transcribing public meetings and/or public hearings, and staff time necessary to develop and defend a regulatory proposal. After establishing regulations complying with this legislation, the RCA would incur the expense of ensuring compliance with directory requirements.

The RCA's budget is funded through Regulatory Cost Charges (RCC) and direct charge mechanisms. The RCC is recalculated each year and allows the agency to recover its operating expenses through an assessment on revenues of regulated utilities and pipeline carriers. Utilities exempt from economic regulation by the RCA do not pay RCCs, but may be required to pay the actual costs of services provided by the RCA. The RCA expects to implement the provisions of this legislation with existing resources.

Sonya Hymer

From: Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux
Sent: Thursday, March 06, 2008 9:26 AM
To: Sonya Hymer
Subject: FW: Please support HBC 387

Suzanne Hancock, Chief of Staff
Representative Gabrielle LeDoux
District 36
Capitol, Juneau, Alaska 99801
(907) 465-2487
(907) 465-4956 (fax)

-----Original Message-----

From: Mark Pope [mailto:mark@learningsurge.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 06, 2008 9:20 AM
To: Rep. Anna Fairclough; Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux; Rep. Nancy Dahlstrom; Rep. Mark Neuman;
Rep. Kurt Olson; Rep. Sharon Cissna; Rep. Woodie Salmon
Cc: mlewis@yksd.com
Subject: Please support HBC 387

Please support - House Bill 387 to limit distribution of phone books.

Mark Pope

Palmer, AK

Sonya Hymer

From: Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux
Sent: Thursday, March 06, 2008 9:26 AM
To: Sonya Hymer
Subject: FW: House Bill 387

Suzanne Hancock, Chief of Staff
Representative Gabrielle LeDoux
District 36
Capitol, Juneau, Alaska 99801
(907) 465-2487
(907) 465-4956 (fax)

-----Original Message-----

From: Kevin Wood [mailto:kdwood@mtaonline.net]
Sent: Wednesday, March 05, 2008 9:53 PM
To: Jim Isturis
Cc: Rep. Anna Fairclough; Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux; Rep. Nancy Dahlstrom; Rep. Mark Neuman;
Rep. Kurt Olson; Rep. Sharon Cissna; Rep. Woodie Salmon
Subject: House Bill 387

Dear Representatives,

I am writing in support of this important bill.
By limiting the amount of telephone directories sent out, this bill would help to reduce the amount:

- Of phonebooks filling our landfills
- Of energy and resources used in production and distribution
- And unnecessary clutter within our homes

Thank You,

Sincerely,

Kevin D Wood

Sonya Hymer

From: Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux
Sent: Thursday, March 06, 2008 9:26 AM
To: Sonya Hymer
Subject: FW: supporting HB 387 Limiting the Distribution of Telephone Directories

Suzanne Hancock, Chief of Staff
Representative Gabrielle LeDoux
District 36
Capitol, Juneau, Alaska 99801
(907) 465-2487
(907) 465-4956 (fax)

-----Original Message-----

From: Ki Woyke Wood [mailto:kiwoyke@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 05, 2008 9:49 PM
Subject: supporting HB 387 Limiting the Distribution of Telephone Directories

Dear Representatives and Lawmakers,

Each year, my heart sinks with another phone book bomb. How much paper and ink goes to waste! And you guessed it - the phone books are hardly ever used, since a phone number is only a "google" away. At least for my family. So yes, I applaud loudly the persons who came up with a law to limit the distribution of phone books to households.

However, I would like to take this act a step further and suggest that no phone books are distributed at all. A note could go out with the utility bill or phone bill to announce that phone books are available for pick-up. Only those who are proven to be immobile could get a delivery, but let's save the delivery and distribution charges for the majority, too! Also, 90% of phone books could be substituted with phone CD-Roms (saving 10% for the voluntary computer illiterate and the tech objectors).

Thanks for looking out for us, for helping us unclutter our homes and especially for saving valuable resources and giving our landfills some relief!

Sincerely,

Kirsten Woyke Wood

Sonya Hymer

From: Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux
Sent: Thursday, March 06, 2008 9:27 AM
To: Sonya Hymer
Subject: FW: House Bill 387

Suzanne Hancock, Chief of Staff
Representative Gabrielle LeDoux
District 36
Capitol, Juneau, Alaska 99801
(907) 465-2487
(907) 465-4956 (fax)

-----Original Message-----

From: Michele Kamilos [mailto:mkamilos@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 05, 2008 8:32 PM
To: Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux
Subject: House Bill 387

Dear Representative LeDoux,

Please support House Bill 387. The number of phone books I receive every year is staggering and truly wastefully. I choose one and dispose of the others. I also volunteer at the Mat-Su Valley recycling center and when new editions are distributed people drop off four to five phone books at a time, oftentimes variations from the same company. Please help reduce this waste by supporting this legislation.

Sincerely,

Michele Kamilos

Wasilla, Alaska

Sonya Hymer

From: Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux
Sent: Thursday, March 06, 2008 9:28 AM
To: Sonya Hymer
Subject: FW: HB 387

Suzanne Hancock, Chief of Staff
Representative Gabrielle LeDoux
District 36
Capitol, Juneau, Alaska 99801
(907) 465-2487
(907) 465-4956 (fax)

-----Original Message-----

From: Ley Schleich [mailto:leyschleich@mac.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 05, 2008 7:42 PM
To: Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux
Subject: HB 387

Dear Representative LeDoux,
I understand the Community and Regional Affairs Committee is taking testimony on HB 387. Count me a supporter! I guess we cannot expect the free market to create an adjustment to this very wasteful practice of TOO MANY PHONE DIRECTORIES! But absent that, it is appropriate that the legislature make the adjustment, which I understand HB 387 will do. Thank you in advance for your efforts in advancing and supporting this bill.

Sincerely,
Ley Schleich
Wasilla Supervoter

3080 E. Wanamingo Dr.
Wasilla AK 99654

Sonya Hymer

From: Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux
Sent: Thursday, March 06, 2008 9:28 AM
To: Sonya Hymer
Subject: FW: *****SPAM***** HB 387

Suzanne Hancock, Chief of Staff
Representative Gabrielle LeDoux
District 36
Capitol, Juneau, Alaska 99801
(907) 465-2487
(907) 465-4956 (fax)

-----Original Message-----

From: Ellen Wolf [mailto:ellenmwolf@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 05, 2008 6:04 PM
To: Jim Isturis
Cc: Rep. Mark Neuman; Rep. Anna Fairclough; Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux; Rep. Nancy Dahlstrom;
Rep. Kurt Olson; Rep. Sharon Cissna; Rep. Woodie Salmon
Subject: *****SPAM***** HB 387

Please add my voice to the many who support House Bill 387 which would limit the distribution of telephone books to one per household unless otherwise requested. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Ellen Wolf
P.O. Box 371
Talkeetna, AK 99676

Be a better friend, newshound, and know-it-all with Yahoo! Mobile. Try it now.
<http://us.rd.yahoo.com/evt=51733/*http://mobile.yahoo.com/;
_ylt=Ahu06i62sR8HdtDypao8Wcj9tAcJ>

Sonya Hymer

From: Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux
Sent: Thursday, March 06, 2008 9:28 AM
To: Sonya Hymer
Subject: FW: House Bill 387

Suzanne Hancock, Chief of Staff
Representative Gabrielle LeDoux
District 36
Capitol, Juneau, Alaska 99801
(907) 465-2487
(907) 465-4956 (fax)

-----Original Message-----

From: Henry [mailto:donhenry@mtaonline.net]
Sent: Wednesday, March 05, 2008 5:31 PM
To: Rep. Anna Fairclough; Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux; Rep. Nancy Dahlstrom; Rep. Mark Neuman;
Rep. Kurt Olson; Rep. Sharon Cissna; R p. Woodie Salmon
Subject: Fw: House Bill 387

----- Original Message -----

From: Henry <mailto:donhenry@mtaonline.net>
To: jim_isturis@legis.state.ak.us
Sent: Wednesday, March 05, 2008 5:26 PM
Subject: House Bill 387

Representative Gardner:

Concerning House Bill 387 (to limit distribution of phone books), please consider the following during your hearing:

I support a limit on distribution. As a Palmer resident, I believe I was given the opportunity to have 4 or 5 phone books (via the USPS) outside of the one provided by my telephone company. I also am a volunteer at our local recycling center, and many customers came with BRAND NEW phone books they would not be using (they also had been given MORE THAN ENOUGH) for recycling, not to mention the pallets stacked with hundreds of BRAND NEW phone books that were not accepted, that were not going to be used. They were brought in for recycling without every being used. The best solution is to reduce the number of phone books offered/given. For the many phone books that were brought for recycling, I'm sure there were just as many if not more heading to the landfill after being placed in the trash.

Please help the state of Alaska reduce the waste involved in offering TOO MANY phones books to residents.

Sincerely,

Carole Henry
P.O. Box 4400
Palmer, AK 99645
907-745-6578

Sonya Hymer

From: Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux
Sent: Thursday, March 06, 2008 9:28 AM
To: Sonya Hymer
Subject: FW: House Bill 387

Suzanne Hancock, Chief of Staff
Representative Gabrielle LeDoux
District 36
Capitol, Juneau, Alaska 99801
(907) 465-2487
(907) 465-4956 (fax)

-----Original Message-----

From: Mollie [mailto:mollie@valleyrecycling.org]
Sent: Wednesday, March 05, 2008 5:28 PM
To: Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux
Subject: House Bill 387

Please support House Bill 387 to limit distribution of phone books. The flood of directories coming into our communities and homes is out of control. It overwhelms the daily processing operations at the recycling centers across the state and fills our landfills with unnecessary waste.

Mollie Boyer
Executive Director
Valley Community for Recycling Solutions (VCRS) "Together, We're Turning it Around"
PO Box 876464
Wasilla, Alaska 99687
907.745.5544
www.valleyrecycling.org

Our mission is to educate and provide opportunities in our community to reduce, reuse and recycle for the long-term good of all.

Our vision is to establish the Mat-Su Borough as a model recycling community for Alaska.

HB

388

25-LS1490E
Bullock
3/17/08

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 388()
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY

Offered:
Referred:

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES GUTTENBERG, Kerttula, LeDoux

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act establishing the Alaska Broadband Task Force; and providing for an effective**
2 **date."**

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

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

6 **LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.** (a) The legislature finds that

7 (1) many smaller communities in the state, particularly in rural areas, have
8 limited access to the Internet;

9 (2) although the state is connected to the rest of the world through several
10 fiber optic cables, many areas within the state are unable to take advantage of the speed and
11 capacity the fiber optic cables offer;

12 (3) removing barriers to broadband deployment by using a technology-neutral
13 approach will encourage lower prices for broadband service and offer more choices to
14 consumers;

1 (4) the deployment of broadband networking and advanced
2 telecommunications services throughout the state are essential for the state to keep pace with
3 global changes in economic diversification, education, health care, energy and environmental
4 technology, and public safety;

5 (5) state action is necessary to support investment in and development of
6 accessible broadband networks in the state.

7 (b) The purpose of this Act is to establish the broadband task force to

8 (1) identify barriers to broadband access and recommend options for removing
9 those barriers;

10 (2) identify opportunities for increased broadband deployment and access by
11 users in the state;

12 (3) recommend the means for the creation and deployment of new and
13 advanced communications options in the state.

14 * **Sec. 2.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
15 read:

16 **ALASKA BROADBAND TASK FORCE.** (a) There is established in the legislative
17 branch of state government the Alaska Broadband Task Force. The task force consists of 13
18 members appointed as follows:

19 (1) the president of the senate and the speaker of the house of representatives
20 shall each appoint one member of the majority organizational caucus and one member of the
21 minority organizational caucus from their respective bodies; if there is no minority
22 organizational caucus in a house, the presiding officer of that house shall appoint two
23 members from the majority organizational caucus of that house;

24 (2) four members shall be representatives of federal, state, and municipal
25 agencies responsible for information technology, economic development, infrastructure
26 development, and public utility regulation and appointed jointly by the president of the senate
27 and the speaker of the house of representatives;

28 (3) five members shall be representatives of technology, telecommunications,
29 and investment businesses doing business in the state and appointed jointly by the president of
30 the senate and the speaker of the house of representatives.

31 (b) The task force established under (a) of this section

- 1 (1) may begin work immediately after a majority of the membership is
2 appointed;
- 3 (2) shall
- 4 (A) determine the current level of broadband access in the urban and
5 rural areas of the state;
- 6 (B) determine an acceptable level of broadband service throughout the
7 state;
- 8 (C) determine the means for increasing the level of service, including
9 regulatory changes and investment incentives for areas that are below the acceptable
10 level determined in (B) of this paragraph;
- 11 (D) explore the potential for increased use of broadband service for the
12 purposes of education and health care delivery and other private and governmental
13 uses;
- 14 (E) solicit suggestions from persons engaged in the development of
15 broadband infrastructure and operation of broadband services for expanding the
16 availability of broadband service in the state;
- 17 (F) study the different means for delivering broadband service,
18 including satellite and other wireless means;
- 19 (G) establish best practices to establish and maintain a database that
20 lists current broadband service providers and where each operates, projects that are
21 currently being developed, and projects that are in the planning and predevelopment
22 stage;
- 23 (H) explore ways for encouraging state and municipal agencies to
24 expand the development and use of broadband services, including audio and video
25 streaming, voice-over Internet protocol, teleconferencing, and wireless networking;
- 26 (I) submit a report of the initial findings and recommendations for
27 expanding access to broadband services throughout the state to the president of the
28 senate and the speaker of the house of representatives before January 31, 2009;
- 29 (J) submit a final report of findings and recommendations for
30 expanding access to broadband services throughout the state to the president of the
31 senate and the speaker of the house of representatives before December 31, 2009;

1 (K) terminate on June 30, 2010.

2 (c) Members of the task force shall select a chair and vice-chair. Administrative
3 support for the task force shall be provided by legislative staff designated jointly by the
4 president of the senate and the speaker of the house of representatives.

5 (d) A member of the task force who is not a legislator or a full-time employee of the
6 state or a municipality is entitled to per diem and travel expenses authorized for boards and
7 commissions under AS 39.20.180.

8 (e) A vacancy on the task force shall be filled in the same manner as the original
9 appointment under (a)(1) - (3) of this section.

10 * Sec. 3. This Act takes effect July 1, 2008.

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



SESSION
Alaska State Capitol, Room 418
Juneau, AK 99801
(907) 465-4457 Office
(907) 465-3519 Fax
(800) 928-4457 Toll Free

INTERIM
1292 Sadler Way, Suite 304
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Representative David Guttenberg

MEMO

To: **Representative Fairclough, Co-Chair**
House Community and Regional Affairs Committee

Representative LeDoux, Co-Chair
House Community and Regional Affairs Committee

From: Representative David Guttenberg

Date: March 3, 2008

Re: Hearing request for HB 388, An Act establishing the Alaska Broadband Task Force; and providing for an effective date.

I respectfully request that HB 388 be scheduled for House Community and Regional Affairs Committee consideration at your earliest convenience.

Included you will find:

- The current version of HB 388
- Sponsor Statement
- Sectional Analysis
- Alaska Statewide Telecommunications Workshop
- Connected Nation: The Economic Impact of Stimulating Broadband Nationally
- NCSL: State Broadband Legislation
- Federal Broadband Legislation
- Alaska Information Infrastructure Task Force (HCR 32 and HCR 6)
- Letters of Support
- Press and Additional Support

I look forward to discussing the merits of this bill in the House Community and Regional Affairs Committee. My staff, Jeff Stepp, is assigned to this legislation if there are any questions, 465-4708.

Representative.David.Guttenberg@legis.state.ak.us
<http://guttenberg.akdemocrats.org>

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



Sponsor

Statement

SESSION
Alaska State Capitol, Room 418
Juneau, AK 99801
(907) 465-4457 Office
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Fax (907) 456-2490

Representative David Guttenberg

House Bill 388 – Alaska Broadband Task Force

A recent report, The Economic Impact of Stimulating Broadband Nationally, states:

"It is widely understood that increased adoption of broadband technology speeds the flow of information and sparks innovation. According to the Brookings Institution, 'High-speed internet access has developed rapidly in the last decade and is increasingly viewed as essential infrastructure for our global information economy.' However, at the beginning of 2008, many United States residents still cannot access broadband internet service, especially in America's most rural areas. (Connected Nation, Inc.)."

The Internet is the public infrastructure of our time. It is no longer just a standard medium for everyday communication, but is a key component of economic development. HB 388 will demonstrate the State of Alaska's commitment to facilitating an effective statewide broadband strategy that will enable the State to achieve and maintain global competitiveness, long term statewide cost savings, and better quality of life for residents. To be able to capitalize on all the economic opportunities and savings made possible by broadband connectivity, we must invest in building a strong framework capable of achieving maximum rather than minimal capabilities.

To achieve this goal, the Alaska Broadband Task Force will help the State adopt a broad, comprehensive and multifaceted strategic approach to providing affordable, high-speed, universal broadband access to all homes, businesses, and schools. The formation of the Task Force will engage partners across a wide spectrum of public sector, private sector, and not-for-profit organizations to provide innovative broadband solutions to close the well-documented digital divide in Alaska.

It is universally accepted that in the 21st Century access to affordable high-speed internet service is a necessity for economic competitiveness, health care access, educational and social opportunity, homeland security, and equity. To be a full participant in both the Information Age and the Information Economy, access to affordable, high-speed broadband internet service is critical for Alaskan individuals, businesses, and schools. In rural and remote areas, as well as more populated areas, the State of Alaska can – and must – improve access and affordability of high-speed internet service.

The failure to build-out broadband infrastructure no longer simply stifles Alaska's potential growth, but actually does a disservice to the public interest. The National Conference of State Legislatures has recognized the importance of this issue and has adopted an initiative called *Connecting America* that states, "Broadband internet is an important key to the nation's leadership in technological and economic initiatives. The President, the Congress, and the FCC have identified rapid deployment of high-speed broadband as a national priority ... State legislative policies can stimulate or impede broadband development and demand."

I urge you to support this legislation in order to stimulate broadband deployment for all Alaskans.

Representative.David.Guttenberg@legis.state.ak.us
<http://guttenberg.akdemocrats.org>

LEGAL SERVICES

DIVISION OF LEGAL AND RESEARCH SERVICES
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENCY
STATE OF ALASKA

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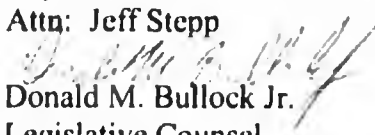
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
Deliveries to: 129 6th St., Rm. 329

MEMORANDUM

February 20, 2008

SUBJECT: Sectional summary of HB 388 (Work Order No. 25-LS1490(C))

TO: Representative David Guttenberg
Attn: Jeff Stepp

FROM: 
Donald M. Bullock Jr.
Legislative Counsel

You have requested a sectional summary of the above-described bill.

As a preliminary matter, note that a sectional summary of a bill should not be considered an authoritative interpretation of the bill and the bill itself is the best statement of its contents. If you would like an interpretation of the bill as it may apply to a particular set of circumstances, please advise.

Section 1. States the legislative findings that led to the establishment of the Alaska Broadband Task Force and describes the general purposes for which the task force is established.

Section 2. Establishes the Alaska Broadband Task Force in the legislative branch. Provides for the appointment of 13 members to the task force, including four members from the legislature. Provides for selection of a chair and vice-chair of the task force, staff support, filling a vacancy on the task force, and per diem and expenses for task force members who are not state or municipal employees. Lists the duties and responsibilities of the task force, including the determination of an acceptable level of broadband service, studying the potential uses for broadband service, identifying the current level of broadband access, and soliciting suggestions for increasing the level of broadband service and access throughout the state. Provides for an initial report by the task force to be submitted to the legislature before January 31, 2009, and a final report before December 31, 2009. Terminates the task force on June 30, 2010.

Section 3. Makes the Act take effect July 1, 2008.

DMB:ljw
08-105.ljw

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2008 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: _____
Bill Version: HB388
() Publish Date: _____

Identifier (file name): HB388-LEG-COU-03-12-08 Dept. Affected: Legislature
Title: "An Act establishing the Alaska Broadband Task Force; and providing for an effective date." RDU: Legislative Council
Sponsor: Representatives Gultenberg, Kerttula, LeDoux Component: Council and Subcommittees
Requester: House Community and Regional Affairs Component Number: 783

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below

	Appropriation Required	Information						
		FY 2009	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
OPERATING EXPENDITURES								
Personal Services								
Travel	22.0		11.0					
Contractual								
Supplies								
Equipment								
Land & Structures								
Grants & Claims								
Miscellaneous								
TOTAL OPERATING	22.0	0.0	11.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES								
-----------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

CHANGE IN REVENUES ()								
-------------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY 2009	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
1002 Federal Receipts							
1003 GF Match							
1004 GF	22.0		11.0				
1005 GF/Program Receipts							
1037 GF/Mental Health							
Other Interagency Receipts							
TOTAL	22.0	0.0	11.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2008) cost: _____

POSITIONS

Full-time							
Part-time							
Temporary							

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

HB388 establishes a thirteen member Alaska Broadband Task Force. Members will be appointed by the Presiding Officers and the Task Force will be comprised of four Legislators, four members from federal, state, and municipal agencies, and five members from technology, telecommunications, and investment companies doing business in Alaska. It is anticipated that the Task Force will hold two meetings in FY 09 and one meeting in FY10 which will require travel. All other meetings will be by teleconference. The Task Force will be staffed by legislative staff appointed by the Presiding Officers. The Task Force will submit a report of initial findings and recommendations to the Presiding Officers by January 31, 2009 and a final report on December 31, 2009. Costs to print the report and teleconference meetings will be absorbed by the Legislative Affairs Agency. The Task Force terminates on June 30, 2010.

Prepared by: Karla Schofield, Deputy Director
Division: Legislative Affairs Agency
Approved by: Pamela Varni, Executive Director
Legislative Affairs Agency

Phone: 465-6626
Date/Time: 3/12/08 3:43 PM
Date: 3/12/2008

INSTITUTE OF THE NORTH

Governor Walter J. Hickel, *Founder*

Contact: Carole Chambers, Research Associate
(907) 771-2447, cchambers@institutenorth.org

February 12, 2008

Telecommunications workshop targets improved connectivity in Alaska

ANCHORAGE – Improving statewide connectivity in order to bolster economic development and support the delivery of essential services throughout Alaska will be the challenge before a group of telecommunications experts meeting Friday in Anchorage.

Hosted by University of Alaska and the Institute of the North and facilitated by Carnegie Mellon University's Distinguished Service Professor Alex Hills, the workshop will bring together the state's leading communications providers and a cross section of Alaska's consumers to share information on the current and near-term telecommunications and infrastructure needs, as well as discuss how best to facilitate improved connectivity, especially in remote Alaska.

"When you compare the state of connectivity in a majority of Alaska with either the Lower 48 or internationally with our Arctic neighbors, we are either at the bottom of the list, or close," said Ben Ellis, managing director of the institute and co-organizer of the workshop. "Where once Alaska was a leader in this field, we have slipped and slipped badly by comparison to services provided in other regions."

Workshop keynote speaker, David Lassner, will share his perspectives on Hawaii's efforts to advance that state's telecommunication's infrastructure. He currently chairs the Hawaii Broadband Task Force, which was established by the Hawaii State Legislature in 2007 to advance broadband throughout the state. Hawaii is one of numerous states that have recently enacted broadband legislation.

"Even though Alaska will need to develop its own unique plan, we hope to learn from Hawaii why and how they are moving forward to make high speed broadband available across the state," said Steve Smith, University of Alaska's chief information technology officer and co-organizer of the workshop.

-30-

Founded by former Secretary of the Interior and twice governor of Alaska, Walter J. Hickel, the Institute of the North specializes in how to utilize and care for the resource-rich commons for the benefit of those living in the region. Areas of special study include Alaska, the new Russia, the many regions of the Arctic and other areas of the world with sparse populations yet wealthy in human cultures and natural resources. www.institutenorth.org

Alaska Statewide Telecommunications Workshop Participants

February 15, 2008

NAME		AFFILIATION	Confirmed	Tentative
Andreassen	Nils	RurAL CAP		x
Austerman	Joe	Office of Economic Development	x	
Ayers	Wanetta	Western Alaska Community Development	x	
Brown	Fletcher	DRS Technical Services	x	
Brown	Chris	AT&T	x	
Bunker	Aaron	Cisco	x	
Cary	Martin	GCI	x	
Chambers	Carole	Institute of the North	x	
Cochran	Patricia	Inuit Circumpolar Council		x
Comeau	Carol	Anchorage School District	x	
Dengel	David	Copper Valley Telephone Cooperative	x	
Dowling	Richard	GCI	x	
Dubey	Anand	Enterprise Technology Services	x	
Ellis	Ben	Institute of the North	x	
Esposito	Fred	AVTEC		x
Felix	Mike	AT&T	x	
Ferguson	Stewart	Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium	x	
Goggins	David	TelAlaska	x	
Gutlieb	Katherine	Southcentral Foundation		x
Greenfield	Rich	Alaska Distance Education Consortium	x	
Halloran	Margaret	Alaska Distance Education Consortium	x	
Harmon	Walter	Cisco	x	
Hemsath	Naney	Institute of the North	x	
Hills	Alex	Carnegie Mellon University	x	
Hoppe	Todd	Bristol Bay Telephone Cooperative	x	
Hudson	Heather	University of San Francisco	x	
Johnsen	Krag	Denali Commission	x	
Kitka	Julie	Alaska Federation of Natives	x	
Kloepfer	Nichole	UA - Statewide OIT	x	
Kurth	Christine	Commerce, Science & Transportation Com.		x
Lassner	David	Hawaii Broadband Task Force	x	
Lehman	Dale	Alaska Pacific University	x	
Lindbeck	Steve	APT! KAKM-TV	x	
Madden	John	Alaska Homeland Security and Emergency	x	
Madison	Rebecca	Alaska ChartLink	x	
Moran	Duane	Anchorage School District - Ed. Tech.	x	
O'Hare	Mike	Department of Military & Veterans Affairs	x	
Parker	Walt	Institute of the North	x	
Stos	Nikos	Alaska Inter-Tribal Council	x	
	<i>Participating on the providers panel</i>			
	<i>Participating on the consumers panel</i>			

Alaska Statewide Telecommunications

Workshop Participants

February 15, 2008

NAME		AFFILIATION	Confirmed	Tentative
Phillips	Lisa	ACS	x	
Riendl	Paul	FAA	x	
Rowe	Jim	Alaska Telephone Association.	x	
Rydesky	Mary	Eastern Aleutian Tribes, Inc.	x	
Shoffstall	Roger	Summit Telephone	x	
Smith	Eugene	Maniilaq Association	x	
Smith	Steve	UA - Statewide OIT	x	
Sullivan	Beth	Distant Education RANA APU	x	
Stepp	Jeff	Office of Rep. David Guttenberg	x	
Treadwell	Mead	U.S. Arctic Research Commission	x	
Ulmer	Fran	University of Alaska Anchorage	x	
Walp	Robert	IEEE	x	
Wegner	Mary	Anchorage School District - Ed. Tech.	x	
Wuolke	Eric	FAA	x	
	<i>Participating on the providers panel</i>			
	<i>Participating on the consumers panel</i>			



Alaska Statewide Telecommunications Workshop

- What is your desired future for broadband services in Alaska?
 - Accessible (ubiquitous and transparent) to all end customers
 - Advanced broadband services are an essential infrastructure for an innovation economy and a knowledge society in the 21st century. Residents and businesses throughout Alaska should have access to advanced broadband services of the caliber and at the pricing available in the leading developed nations of the world. (*advanced communication services; advanced voice, video and data systems*)
 - National leader in support safety, health, education, economic development, culture



Alaska Statewide Telecommunications Workshop

- How should Alaska get to that desired future?
 - Establish a public planning process
 - Create a telecommunications task force/telecommunications council to bring focus and to provide a forum for dialogue to move forward as a state to achieve the vision
 - Subsidy should be efficient and sustainable to promote innovation and achievement of the vision
 - Promote public/private initiatives and opportunities to combine other utilities and broadband to achieve efficiencies where appropriate
 - Leverage technology to achieve economic sustainability; such as, establish Alaska as data center for the world
 - Recognize our commitment to private and secure communications systems



Alaska Statewide Telecommunications Workshop

- What are the biggest challenges to achieving this future?
 - Lack of state leadership/vision
 - State/federal regulations
 - Change metric from bandwidth to creative solutions
 - Effective bandwidth use
 - Alignment of missions of the stakeholders
 - Returns on shareholder investment may not reflect social returns
 - Not enough money (market and subsidy system) to achieve our goals

Broadband Legislation Would Provide Economic Stimulus of \$134 Billion Annually



CONNECTED
NATION™

Study Background Contact: Mark McElroy, PhD
mmcelroy@connectednation.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
February 21, 2008

Media Contact: Kasey McCrary
kmmccrary@connectednation.org
1-877-846-7710

Report outlines economic impact of broadband bills providing a second opportunity for Congress to stimulate the nation's economy

Washington, D.C.: A report released by national non-profit Connected Nation measures the national economic stimulus of broadband legislation currently under Congressional consideration. The report details the potential state-by-state impact of legislation to accelerate broadband access and use. Its findings suggest that the U.S. could realize an impact of \$134 billion annually from a modest increase in broadband adoption.

"Just as the Congress needed to pass the recent economic stimulus package to accelerate the economies of every state, so too does the nation deserve passage of pending legislation that could accelerate access to and use of broadband. The beauty of the broadband legislation currently in play in the midst of Farm Bill negotiations is that it would provide a jolt to the nation's economy in the near term – to the tune that rivals the recent economic stimulus package" said Brian Mefford, Connected Nation's CEO.

The Connected Nation report measures the impact of its first state-based program, ConnectKentucky. Kentucky has experienced a rate of growth in broadband adoption (i.e. the number of households subscribing to high-speed broadband service) that is measurably higher than the nation. Kentucky experienced an 83% rate of growth in broadband adoption while the national trend was 57%. By surveying consumer savings in time, miles driven and healthcare and by calculating the impact on job creation/retention, the report projects the estimated annual economic benefit for Kentucky. From this data, Connected Nation extrapolated the economic impact of modest growth in broadband adoption for each state and the country as a whole.

If Congress passes legislation that enables every state to implement programs modeled after ConnectKentucky and experience an increase in broadband adoption, the direct economic stimulus would be more than \$134 billion per year for the nation, according to the report.

According to Larry Cohen, president of the Communications Workers of America, "The Communications Workers of America has long been pressing for public policies that will allow all Americans to share in today's telecommunications revolution and for our nation to fully utilize the economic engine of the 21st century. Economic growth, quality jobs

and the tremendous opportunity for improvement in the personal lives of all Americans depends on substantial improvements in speed, quality and most critically, the build out of true high-speed Internet networks. At the current rates of broadband speed in the United States, the promise of telemedicine, distance learning and civic participation simply isn't possible. And both developed and developing regions – Europe, Korea and parts of southeast Asia, eastern Europe and more – have moved far ahead of us. This economic impact study spotlights not only the positive benefits that will result from the build out of true high-speed broadband networks, but reinforces the critical need for a national broadband policy and the broadband mapping bills that Congress now is considering."

In 2007, the U.S. House of Representatives voted unanimously to pass such legislation, and the U.S. Senate passed a similar proposal as part of a renewal of the Farm Bill. The Senate and the House are working to complete negotiations on the Farm Bill, including rural development and broadband elements, this month. However, in the result of a broadband stalemate during Farm Bill discussions, the country's unserved areas would likely see little help in the near term.

"Connected Nation provides convincing evidence that the benefits of broadband adoption spill over to society as a whole," said Dr. Robert D. Atkinson, president of the Information Technology & Innovation Foundation. "Moreover, the report rightly concludes that public policies to spur broadband are critical to ensure the best possible broadband future for the United States."

Connected Nation has garnered international, industry-wide recognition as a best-practice model for broadband expansion. The model, which includes extensive broadband mapping, a public-private partnership and grassroots eCommunity leadership teams, has been identified by numerous states as the preferred model for accelerating broadband.

According to Lawrence Spiwak, President of the Phoenix Center for Advanced Legal and Economic Public Policy Studies, "The Connected Nation approach to broadband is perhaps the most important public policy innovation for communications services in many decades. In an environment characterized by constant rhetorical divisiveness, Connected Nation pulls people together to share in their relentless focus on expanding broadband availability and subscription. As this new study shows, there is much to gain from expanding broadband availability and use in this country, and Connected Nation has proven itself up to the task."

To download a copy of the report and additional information regarding the study, visit www.connectednation.org.

###

About Connected Nation: *Connected Nation is widely recognized as the nation's model for improving digital inclusion. Connected Nation expands access to and use of broadband Internet and the related technologies that are enabled when communities and families have the opportunity and desire to connect. For the United States, this means better education, more jobs, improved healthcare, more efficient government and a better quality of life.*

For more information about Connected Nation, visit www.connectednation.org.



**CONNECTED
NATION**

The Economic Impact of Stimulating Broadband Nationally

OVERVIEW

NATIONAL

YOUR STATE

Alaska

Total Economic Impact	\$ 317,188,552.04
Population	670,053
Additional Employment	4,846
Direct Income Growth	\$ 212,849,167
Average Annual Healthcare Costs Saved	\$ 1,484,307
Average Annual Mileage Costs Saved	\$ 14,018,776
Average Annual Hours Saved	8,408,897
Value of Hours Saved	\$ 88,797,954
Average Annual lbs of CO2 Emissions Cut	7,100,920
Value of Carbon Offsets	\$ 38,349

"The Economic Impact of Stimulating Broadband Nationally" details the potential state-by-state impact of legislation to accelerate broadband access and use. The report's findings suggest that the U.S. could realize an economic impact of \$134 billion annually by accelerating broadband availability and use across all states. The map above shows the potential for broadband that exists in every U.S. state. Please take the time to review the report and the potential for broadband in the U.S.

Report: *The Economic Impact of Stimulating Broadband Nationally* (PDF)

Press Release: *Broadband Legislation Would Provide Economic Stimulus of \$134 Billion Annually* (PDF)

Media Kit

CONNECTED NATION | 444 North Capitol Street | Washington, DC 20001 |
info@connectednation.com | 877-846-7710



Broadband Legislation

Last update: November 2007

State	Bill	Status as of November, 2007	Description	Category
Arkansas	AR H B 1589	Act 739 Approved - 03/30/2007	Enables deployment of broadband service over power lines. Provides for ownership and operation of the broadband system by an electric utility or affiliate.	BPL
Arkansas	AR S.B. 780	Act 385 Approved - 03/19/2007	Allows universal service funds to be used for incremental extension and expansion of broadband and other advanced telecommunications services.	Universal Service
Arkansas	AR S.B. 924	Act 604 Approved - 03/28/2007	Creates and provides for the operation of Connect Arkansas, a nonprofit organization tasked with promoting broadband education and deployment. Establishes a mechanism for broadband providers to register the areas they are serving so that Connect Arkansas can determine where to target its efforts.	Coordination & Leadership
Arkansas	AR S.B. 925	Regular Session Ended - 05/01/2007	Amends Arkansas law to increase the delivery of broadband services throughout the state.	Coordination & Leadership
California	CA S.B. 323	Regular Session Ended - 09/12/2007	Requires the Public Utilities Commission to report the availability of two-way broadband communications to the Legislature beginning in 2009.	Assessment
California	CA S.B. 1013	Regular Session Ended - 09/12/2007	Requires the Public Utilities Commission to annually designate a class of broadband service necessary to meet minimum residential communication needs, including access to electronic information services at reasonable download and upload speeds.	Definition
Connecticut	CT H.B. 6502	Regular Session Ended - 06/06/2007	Establishes a working group to recommend ways to create incentives to expand or maximize wireless internet access in Connecticut.	Coordination & Leadership
Connecticut	CT H.B. 6780	Regular Session Ended - 06/06/2007	Allows municipalities to build broadband networks using Local Capital Improvement Program (LOCIP) grant funds and establishes the Broadband Internet Coordinating Council to monitor trends and developments in the creation of a statewide communications infrastructure.	Government Ownership & Operation
Georgia	GA H.B. 804	Act 353 Approved - 05/29/2007	Creates the South Georgia Regional Information Technology Authority to fund and oversee economic development projects in the region. Defines eligible projects to include broadband deployment and infrastructure improvements.	Coordination & Leadership
Hawaii	HI H.B. 310	Act 2 Approved - 07/10/2007 (Legislature overrode Governor's Veto)	Establishes the Hawaii Broadband Task Force to remove barriers to broadband access by gaining wider access to public rights-of-way; identifying opportunities for increased deployment and adoption; and enabling the creation and deployment of new advanced communication technologies.	Coordination & Leadership
Hawaii	HI H.B. 1437	Carried over to 2008	Establishes a task force to study the feasibility of	Government

		<i>Regular Session - 08/27/2007</i>	creating a state owned and operated wireless network.	Ownership & Operation
Illinois	IL H B 754	<i>To Senate Rules Committee - 05/01, 2007</i>	The Connect Illinois Act establishes the Illinois Broadband Development Authority to coordinate universal broadband deployment. Tasks the Authority with (1) achieving improved technology literacy, (2) establishing and empowering local technology planning teams in each county to plan for improved technology use, and (3) establishing and sustaining an attractive investment environment.	Coordination & Leadership
Illinois	IL H B 1258	<i>To House Rules Committee - 05/25/2007</i>	Universal Access to Broadband Act proposes identification of all publicly-owned broadband infrastructure with the aim of making that property and equipment available for lease to any public, private, or non-profit broadband provider. Also provides for the development of local broadband infrastructure projects.	Government Ownership & Operation
Illinois	IL H B 1458	<i>Re-referred to House Rules Committee - 03/23/2007</i>	Authorizes the Illinois Finance Authority to issue bonds and to guarantee loans to finance broadband projects in the State.	Financing
Illinois	IL H B 1859	<i>Re-referred to House Rules Committee - 03/23/2007</i>	Authorizes the Illinois Finance Authority to issue bonds and to guarantee loans to finance broadband projects in the State. Exempts the Authority from certain state taxes.	Financing
Illinois	IL S B 678	<i>Act 95.009 Approved - 06/30/2007</i>	Creates the Broadband Access on Passenger Rail Act requiring a plan for ensuring high speed data transmission services on all passenger rail systems. Requires the plan to address rights-of-way, infrastructure, service operation, and funding sources.	Passenger Rail Services
Indiana	IN H B 1068	<i>Regular Session Ended - 04/29/2007</i>	Provides incentives for the deployment of broadband over power lines.	BPL
Indiana	IN H B 1662	<i>Regular Session Ended - 04/29/2007</i>	Requires the Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC) to conduct a study to determine broadband availability and quality. Specifies the data to be collected. Requires the IURC to prepare deployment maps.	Assessment
Indiana	IN S B 524	<i>Act 162 Approved - 07/01/2007</i>	Reorganizes public finance structure to provide broadband development financing through the Economic Development Corporation.	Financing
Kansas	KS H B 2157	<i>Regular Session Ended - 05/22/2007</i>	Mandates the commission of a survey on broadband deployment to households and businesses to collect and interpret statistically reliable geographic, demographic, and telecommunications technology information. Establishes goal of identifying and addressing disparities in broadband deployment.	Assessment
Kansas	KS H B 2448	<i>Regular Session Ended - 05/22/2007</i>	Establishes a grant program to provide funding to qualified providers for payment of all or part of the project costs associated with high speed internet access service to an area where there is currently no access to direct subscriber line service.	Financing
Kentucky	KY S B 24	<i>Act 37 Approved - 03/21/2007</i>	Requires tracking of broadband deployment. Encourages broadband deployment by enabling the creation of public-private partnerships. Requires that public notice be given and public funds be available before contracts or grants may be awarded.	Assessment/Public-Private Partnership

Louisiana	LA H B 806	Act 347 Approved - 07/09/2007	Creates the Delta Development Initiative and includes a provision to fund a business incubator program to provide high-speed internet access to northeast Louisiana businesses.	Coordination & Leadership
Maine	ME H P 189	Unanimous Ought-Not-To-Pass by Committee - 04/27/2007 (Regular Session Ended - 06/21/2007)	Authorizes a \$2 million bond issue to provide matching funds for communities in underserved areas of the state who build the infrastructure necessary to provide high-speed internet access. Requires the bond issue to be approved by statewide referendum.	Financing
Maine	ME H P 299	Senate placed in Legislative Dead Files - 04/02/2007.	Mandates that telephone utilities operating in Maine provide high-speed internet access to any Maine resident who requests the service. Exempts residents of unorganized territories.	Regulation
Maine	ME H P 586	Chapter 27 Approved - 05/16/2007	Requires that certain conditions be met prior to final authorization of portions of ConnectME Authority, Chapter 101: 1. The definition of broadband service provider may not include commercial mobile service providers; 2. Only mobile communications service providers contributing to the ConnectME Fund are required to file coverage maps and a service description; 3. Applications must include: a) a proposed service area description and proof that it is unserved or underserved, and b) a project description that includes established public-private partnerships, evidence of funding eligibility, the type and speed of service, a project timeline, the percentage distribution of households and businesses and the estimated price per customer; the total funding requested; the applicant's independent financial commitment; the estimated number of directly benefiting customers; and evidence of community support; and 4. Applications submitted in a defined period must be concurrently evaluated on a 100-point scale that measures cost-benefit, community support, project scope and value.	Coordination & Leadership
Maine	ME S P 227	Unanimous Ought-Not-To-Pass by Committee - 04/27/2007 (Regular Session Ended - 06/21/2007)	Authorizes a general fund bond issue to encourage municipal high-speed internet access.	Financing
Maine	ME S P 580	Chapter 106 Approved - 06/21/2007	Protects network neutrality by requiring that broadband providers offer services on a nondiscriminatory basis, allow all content except that which they are authorized to restrict by law, and share user access information.	Network Neutrality
Maryland	MD H B 1069	Withdrawn from further consideration - 03/13/2007	Requires that broadband service providers report on areas served, percentage of those with access who subscribe, available speeds, pricing, and new service offerings.	Assessment
Massachusetts	MA H B 4311	To Senate Committee on Bonding, Capital Expenditures and State Assets - 10/22/2007	Authorizes a bond of up to \$25 million to bring broadband Internet service to unserved and underserved communities. Creates the Massachusetts Broadband Institute. Charges the new agency with investing in publicly owned broadband equipment and partnering with private Internet providers to first connect unserved residences and businesses and second, to improve services in communities with limited broadband.	Coordination & Leadership

			access.	
Michigan	MI H.B. 5240	To House Committee on New Economy and Quality of Life - 09/17/2007	Repeals the state broadband development authority act.	Repeal
Minnesota	MN H.B. 2107	Regular Session Ended - 05/21/2007	Establishes a Broadband Policy Advisory Board and Director tasked with making available ultra high-speed data transmission services, at speeds equal to at least 1,000,000,000 bits per second; to all Minnesota residents by 2015.	Coordination & Leadership
Minnesota	MN S.B. 1918	Regular Session Ended - 05/21/2007		
Nevada	NV A.B. 518	Chapter 216 Approved - 05/31/2007	Repeals the plan of alternative regulation (PAR) regulatory scheme and classifies all telecommunications suppliers as competitive providers. Requires that each competitive supplier that is an incumbent local exchange carrier prepare and submit a report that includes the number of competitors in the local markets within the service territory for various telecommunications services, including broadband, and the pricing for those services.	Assessment/Regulation
New Hampshire	NH S.B. 174	Rereferred to Senate Committee on Energy, Environment and Economic Development - 03/22/2007	Creates the Northern Counties Development Authority and tasks the Authority with promoting, overseeing, and integrating the economic development of Carroll, Coos, and Grafton counties. One of the Authority's responsibilities is reviewing access to and funding for broadband internet in the three counties where telecommunications infrastructure is inadequate.	Coordination & Leadership
New Hampshire	NH S.B. 224	Chapter 315 Approved - 06/13/2007	Extends the duration of the telecommunications planning and development advisory committee and broadens the scope of the committee to include broadband infrastructure.	Assessment
New Jersey	S.B. 2053	Chapter 191 Approved - 10/18/2007	Permits county and municipal sewerage and utilities authorities to develop broadband telecommunications infrastructure used for providing broadband telecommunications service via wireless community networks.	Government Ownership/Operation
New Jersey	NJ S.B. 2472	To Senate Economic Growth Committee - 01/09/2007	Allows municipalities to provide broadband telecommunications infrastructure and service in partnership with private entities.	Public-Private Partnership
New Mexico	NM H.B. 75	Chapter 288 Approved - 04/03/2007	Allows the telecommunications bureau of the communications division of the general services department to provide telecommunications services, including broadband, when necessary to facilitate state-mandated programs, such as distance education and telehealth.	Government Ownership/Operation
New York	NY A.B. 2435	To Assembly Committee on Corporations, Authorities and Commissions - 01/17/2007	The New York State Broadband Development Authority Act creates the New York state broadband development authority; authorizes the issuance of bonds or notes, creates the broadband development authority reserve capital account and the broadband development	Financing
New York	NY A.B. 4357	To Assembly Committee on Governmental Operations - 02/02/2007	Allows state entities to establish community access networks and authorizes the study of the creation of wholesale network over which any competitive broadband providers would be able to provide services.	Government Ownership/Operation
New York	NY A.B. 4586	To Assembly Committee on Corporations, Authorities and	Requires municipalities to facilitate the rapid deployment of broadband telecommunications facilities and infrastructure by granting access to	Rights-of-Way/Network Neutrality