



Alaska State Legislature

1976

Source:

SR 2

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 2

Relating to provision of communications satellite facilities.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE:

WHEREAS, during the course of the past several years, the Alaska Legislature has maintained a significant and continuing interest in the issues and problems involving communications services for Alaska; and

WHEREAS the Alaska Legislature has in the past registered its opinion with the Federal Communications Commission regarding Alaska's communications needs; and

WHEREAS the Federal Communications Commission is presently considering whether RCA Alaska Communications, Inc. (RCA Alascom) should lease satellite transponder facilities from RCA Global Communications, Inc. - Trustee (RCA Globcom) or from Western Union, Inc. during an interim period before resolution of the issues set out in the commission's November 6, 1975 RCA Satellite Order (56 PCC 2d 660 (1975)); and

WHEREAS the commission's choice of a satellite facilities supplier for the interim period significantly affects the interests of Alaska's communications users in that

(1) satellite transponder facilities available from Western Union currently cost twice as much as those available from RCA Globcom;

(2) the Western Union satellite is not technically capable of providing television service to the bush earth stations held in trust by the state and RCA Alascom;

(3) the Western Union satellite is technically inadequate to provide a full range of required voice communications services (including adequate emergency medical service) to the bush earth stations; and

(4) the requirement for successive repointing of the bush earth station antennas and the readjustment of associated equipment necessitated by the use of the Western Union satellite during the interim period will delay the scheduled operation of the bush earth stations; and

WHEREAS the commission's choice of a satellite facilities supplier for the interim period can be made without prejudice to the resolution of the issues set out in its November 6, 1975 RCA Satellite Order; and

WHEREAS the Governor of the State of Alaska has by letter dated March 10, 1976 urged the Federal Communications Commission to authorize interim satellite service through the RCA Globcom satellite;

BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Senate that the use of the RCA Satcom satellite by RCA Alascom during the interim period, subject to the appropriate conditions requested by the state, is in the public interest, and that the Alaska State Legislature fully supports the position expressed in the Governor's letter of March 10, 1976.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Richard E. Wiley, Chairman, Federal Communications Commission; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Mike Gravel, U. S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U. S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.