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Federal Communications Commission
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To whom it may concern:

I am writing to provide public comment on the FCC's Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on Accelerating Wireless Broadband Deployment by Removing Barriers to Infrastructure Investment (47 CFR Parts 1 and 17 [WT Docket No. 17-79; FCC 17-38]).

To quote from the FCC's National Broadband Plan "...like electricity a century ago, broadband is the foundation of economic growth, job creation, global competitiveness, and a better way of life. It changes how we educate our children, deliver health care, manage energy, ensure public safety, engage government, and organize and disseminate knowledge." Unfortunately, many Alaskan communities lack basic access to the Internet and those with access have to settle for erratic, substandard, and expensive broadband (mine for instance) at speeds considered unacceptable by much of the United States.

In Alaska, there are structural barriers between various programs causing governmental and public infrastructure to suffer. I am specifically referring to FCC programs such as E-rate for libraries, support for tribal clinics, First Net, and the Alaska Plan. The success of these programs are essential to many Alaskans. They are frequently the only way certain communities throughout our state access broadband. Separating these programs may be justified in other states, but not in Alaska. Instead, separation creates barriers to fulfilling the FCC mandate. We cannot leave these walls up and let them continue impeding economic efficiency- especially in Alaska, where every kilobyte matters.

When the FCC commissioners' expressed their opinion on the Alaska Plan they recognize that Alaska is a unique place and requires unique solutions. Two solutions to removing barriers to

infrastructure investment would be for the FCC to amend existing programs to target more funds for the middle mile infrastructure and to allow the coordination of programs that appear to be blind to each other.

While expediting application reviews for infrastructure deployment, the FCC needs to ensure that approved applicants construct and deploy infrastructure as part of an overall solution to broadband access. In Alaska, we must ask how specific actions help a state lacking a comprehensive plan. What gap in Alaskan infrastructure will they close? How will it promote economic competition? Will it increase bandwidth and keep access affordable?

State regulatory agencies must ensure that these activities are consistent with the best interest of the public and not simply undertaken to maximize profit at the expense of the public. In Alaska, the Regulatory Commission of Alaska isn't there. To address this issue, I introduced HB 246, **"An Act creating the Broadband Development Commission-** to create a broadband commission to deal with the gaps in Alaska's fractured internet structure." The commission will identify and close gaps in infrastructure using any funds available, including Universal Service Funds.

I applaud the Federal Communication Commission's efforts to revise rules not just to streamline the deployment of broadband infrastructure but to have a coordinated effort that maximizes the resources distributed in Alaska and result in a sustainable program.

It is necessary to review relevant statutes and regulations to ensure that they are not resulting in unintended impediments to the provision of broadband access, a review that I hope will be done on the state level in Alaska as well.

I am in support of revisions that facilitate sensible infrastructure development. It is my hope that all future efforts will result in all Alaskans having affordable high-speed broadband. I believe this is the Commission's purpose and we cannot afford to leave anyone behind.

Best regards,



Representative David Guttenberg