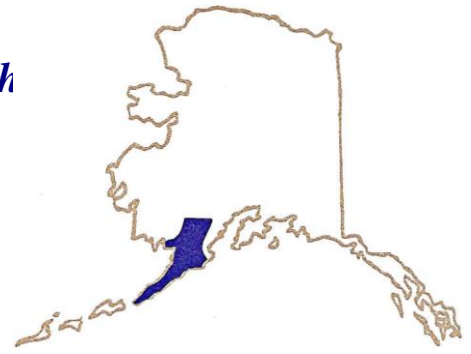




***Lake and Peninsula Borough***

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May 27, 2016

The Honorable Senator Murkowski  
709 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Senator Sullivan  
702 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Congressman Young  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Senator Murkowski, Senator Sullivan, Congressman Young,

I am writing to ask for your support ensuring affordable, reliable, high-speed broadband is available for all Alaskans, including those, like us, who reside in rural communities. Access to the internet is a foundation for economic growth, quality health care, education, and overall a better way of life.

That is why I hope you will tell the FCC to direct a substantial portion of the public monies that go to Alaska to be used to link the state's off-road communities to urban Alaska with adequate, affordable, competitive high-speed broadband capability. Rural Alaskans should be entitled to internet access similar in type and price as other Alaskans and Americans. This does not require wasteful spending on duplicative facilities.

The FCC should attach conditions to receipt of public monies, as a check, to make sure all the money goes for the purposes we need most. We need to be assured that broadband service is provided at adequate speed and quality, and that there is sufficient capacity, so that we may receive services similar to those available in urban markets both today and tomorrow. We want to make sure we have competitive offerings, because competition brings lower prices and better service.

You are aware of how expensive life in the Bush can be, and it is exacerbated when there is no competition. Take for example our situation here in King Salmon; there is only one supplier for fuel and only one air carrier with regular service to Anchorage. While you are enjoying record low gasoline prices, we are still paying in excess of \$6.00 a gallon and a plane ticket to Anchorage costs more than a round trip to Hawaii. In the



## *Lake and Peninsula Borough*



case of broadband service, it rankles all more that public money is a means to exploitive profit. If you are as you claim, champions of the free market, this is your chance to stand up for those beliefs.

I could go on about how broadband access has change life in the Bush, from opening up development and entrepreneurial options, to health and safety options, to expanding and improving education. We should not have to pay a premium because the FCC gave us no choice of service providers.

We ask that you support the FCC's imposition of specific conditions to guarantee these objectives. Competition and accountability is the only way to ensure that rural Alaska will have access to affordable, reliable, high-speed Internet. Connecting our communities to the rest of Alaska, and the world, is critical for our state's success. Thank you for your support.

Susan Edwards  
Finance Officer  
907.246-3421  
finance@lakeandpen.com

CC: FCC Secretary and staff