



June 15, 2016

Sent Via Electronic Mail

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
United States Senate
709 Senate Hart Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Greg_Bringhurst@murkowski.senate.gov

The Honorable Daniel Sullivan
United States Senate
B40 Senate Dirksen Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Kate_Wolgemuth@sullivan.senate.gov

The Honorable Don Young
2314 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Alex.Ortiz@mail.house.gov

Re: Affordable and competitive broadband development in rural Alaska

Senator Murkowski, Senator Sullivan, and Congressman Young,

On behalf of the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN), I am writing to ask for your support to ensure affordable, reliable, high-speed broadband is available for all Alaskans, including those who reside in rural Alaska. Access to the internet is a foundation for economic growth, quality health care, education, and an overall better way of life. Rural Alaskans should be entitled to internet access similar in type and price to urban Alaska and the lower 48 states.

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) directs a substantial portion of funds to Alaska to link our rural communities with adequate, affordable, and competitive high-speed broadband. It is critical to rural Alaskan economic and social development that the FCC continue to ensure that future funding and service is provided at adequate speed, quality, and capacity so that rural Alaska may receive services similar to those available in urban markets both today and in the future.

It is imperative that the FCC put in place accountability safeguards that ensure affordable, reliable, secure broadband with sufficient bandwidth is available for the benefit of all Alaskans. In particular, we ask that:

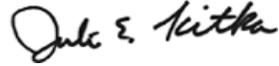
- Facilities constructed with public funds have sufficient bandwidth to meet technology needs now and in the future. The FCC must establish specific, enforceable metrics based on speed and usage benchmarks to ensure federal support is used in the public interest.
- Facilities constructed with public funds be available to a variety of retail providers so that consumers can reap the benefits of competition in the market.
- Facilities constructed with public funds be affordable and measures put in place to monitor rates and ensure affordability.

We request that you urge the FCC to include such conditions to guarantee competitive and equitable broadband development in rural Alaska. Access to affordable fixed and mobile broadband is a significant

driver of economic development with the potential for positive impact to nearly every challenge facing rural Alaskans.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions or concerns about the contents of this letter, please contact me directly at nevakitka@aol.com or (907) 274-3611.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julie E. Kitka". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Julie Kitka
President