



February 27, 2018

Representative Sam Kito III, Chair
House Labor & Commerce Committee
State Capitol, Room 403
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Representative Kito,

Re: House Bill 277 – Broadband Internet; Neutrality/Regulation

The Alaska State Chamber of Commerce opposes House Bill 277, relating to the regulation of broadband Internet; and making certain actions by broadband Internet service providers unlawful acts or practices under the Alaska Unfair Trade Practices and Consumer Protection Act.

The Alaska Chamber is a non-profit founded in 1953 working to promote a positive business environment in Alaska. The Chamber is the voice of small and large businesses representing hundreds of employers and local chambers across Alaska. Our member companies employ over 100,000 hard-working Alaskans. To thrive businesses need consistency, and the regulation of broadband internet is no different.

House Bill 277 will take what has historically been a federally regulated issue and have Alaska specific laws for the internet. Any individual state that would enact their own laws regulating the internet would create a disparity from other states and blanket the country with a patchwork of different laws in which a company would have to comply. The best course of action to take would be to support Congress in adopting basic rules to make sure the internet continues to be an open and thriving platform for all users.

The Alaska Chamber urges you to halt the progression of HB 277, and instead look to supporting Congressional action to adopt legislation to ensure net neutrality.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Curtis W. Thayer', written over a white background.

Curtis W. Thayer
President & CEO

Cc: Representative Adam Wool
Representative Andy Josephson
Representative Louise Stutes
Representative Chris Birch
Representative Gary Knopp
Representative Colleen Sullivan-Leonard