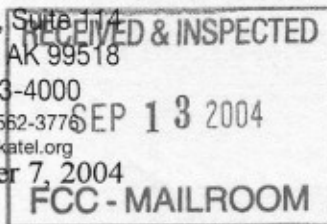


Alaska Telephone Association

Greg Berberich
President

201 E. 56th, Suite 1114
Anchorage, AK 99518
(907) 563-4000
FAX (907) 562-3776
www.alaskatel.org
September 7, 2004



James Rowe
Executive Director
jrowe@arctic.net

Michael K. Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Received

SEP 20 2004

Policy Branch
International Bureau

Re: contactMEO Communications, LLC; File No. SAT-AMD-20040322-0057

Dear Chairman Powell:

The Alaska Telephone Association¹ ("ATA") strongly supports the application of contactMEO Communications, LLC for authority to launch and operate an advanced Ka-band satellite network as described in the above-referenced file. ATA urges the Commission to move forward quickly so that the people of Alaska can enjoy the many benefits of low-cost broadband communications services as soon as possible.

The members of ATA are rural local exchange carriers, many serving communities that are among the most remote in the entire United States. Indeed, many are accessible only by air or water; and only satellites can provide them with communications connectivity. The amended application submitted by contactMEO, if approved, will permit complete coverage of Alaska, allowing rural Alaskans access to affordable broadband services so terribly lacking today.

Using the contactMEO satellite network, ATA member carriers will be able to offer schools, libraries and rural healthcare facilities broadband services at costs dramatically lower than those currently paid, thus reducing demand on the Universal Service Fund. Most importantly for the people of Alaska, the reduced costs of providing rural Internet connectivity will foster general access to the Internet by the more than 100 communities that today are without such local access service.

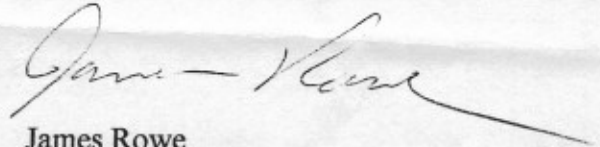
Alaska has more miles of coastline than the rest of the United States combined. Homeland security infrastructure and support activities to protect this coastline and the oil pipeline require robust and redundant communications facilities. National defense facilities in the interior of Alaska, container transport and fisheries operations all require modern, broadband telecommunications access. ContactMEO constitutes the answer to these needs. Indeed, ATA is aware of previous Alaska communications endeavors by the founders of

¹ The ATA is a trade association comprised of rural Alaska local exchange telephone companies. Its active members are Alaska Telephone Company; Arctic Slope Telephone Association Cooperative; Bristol Bay Telephone Cooperative, Inc.; Bush-Tell, Inc.; Copper Valley Telephone Cooperative, Inc.; Cordova Telephone Cooperative; KPU Telecommunications; Matanuska Telephone Association; Nushagak Electric & Telephone Cooperative, Inc.; OTZ Telephone Cooperative; Summit Telephone Company, Inc., TelAlaska, Inc.; United Utilities, Inc.; and Yukon Telephone Company, Inc.

contactMEO as well as projects outside the state and knows that they are dedicated to and fully capable of building the satellite network represented by their amended application.

We look forward to enjoying the promises of Section 254(b)(3) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, which guarantees customers in rural, insular and high cost areas access to telecommunications and information services under terms comparable to urban areas. Granting contactMEO's application as soon as possible will facilitate fulfillment of Section 254(b)(3).

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James Rowe", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

James Rowe

cc: Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Kevin J. Martin
Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein
Donald Abelson, Chief, International Bureau
Thomas S. Tycz, Chief, Satellite Division