

Submitted by: Mayor Begich and
Assemblymembers Coffey, Fairclough, Jennings,
Ossiander, Shamberg, Stout, Sullivan, Tesche,
Traini, Tremaine, and Whittle
Prepared by: Department of Assembly
For reading: November 16, 2004

CLERK'S OFFICE
APPROVED

Date: 11-16-04

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

AR NO. 2004- 296

**A RESOLUTION OF THE ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY ENDORSING AND SUPPORTING
THE CONSTRUCTION OF A MARINE FIBER OPTIC CABLE LINKING THE CITY OF KODIAK WITH
THE CITY OF SEWARD, ALASKA, TO FULFILL THE NEED TO ESTABLISH A REDUNDANT
COMMUNICATIONS CAPACITY FOR ANCHORAGE, INTERIOR ALASKA, AND SOUTHCENTRAL
ALASKA**

WHEREAS, the Municipality of Anchorage with its educational, medical, military and economic infrastructure is, in this high-technology age, vitally dependent upon reliable communications with the rest of the United States for a substantial part of its economic well-being, its quality of life and its future; and

WHEREAS, the Good Friday earthquake of 1964 destroyed much of the infrastructure of Anchorage and other parts of Alaska, severely disrupting communications with the remainder of the nation, and Alaska's frequent earthquakes are stark reminders that the state's communication links to the nation and the world must be made as reliable and redundant as feasible; and

WHEREAS, in recent years, communications between the lower 48 states and Alaska have been upgraded from technologies burdened by the interferences of weather, electromagnetic activity, and time-delay, to the greater reliability and capacity of fiber optic technology; and

WHEREAS, a preponderance of the fiber optic facilities currently connecting interior Alaska with the lower 48 states is co-located within a single narrow utility corridor at the foot of the Chugach Mountains along Turnagain Arm, Cook Inlet, and thus such facilities are inherently vulnerable to landslides, earthquakes, and other natural disasters; and

WHEREAS, terrorism has become a major threat and poses a real and present danger to our nation, to its people and to its increasingly interdependent state, national and global economies, and Alaska, by virtue of its location, is therefore particularly dependent upon such communications with the lower 48 states and such communications are potential targets of terrorism; and

WHEREAS, missile testing and defense in Alaska is increasingly important to the national defense of the United States and are substantially enhanced by the capability of high speed, secure, all weather fiber optic cable links to the rest of the nation; and

WHEREAS, the operations of military installations in Alaska, as well communities, the Trans-Alaska Pipeline and Prudhoe Bay facilities, and the oil terminal transfer and oil spill response facilities in Valdez, Alaska, have been substantially enhanced by secure, high-speed, reliable communications technology provided by fiber optic cable links; and

WHEREAS, advances in telemedicine and distance learning to serve rural Alaskan areas are tied directly to the speed and reliability of secure, all-weather broadband communication technology that can be linked to Anchorage and other hubs; and

1 WHEREAS, a marine fiber optic cable link between Kodiak and Seward will provide a practical
2 and cost-effective redundant route connecting Anchorage and the Alaskan interior with the Kenai
3 Peninsula and Kodiak Island, will complement the planned fiber optic link being constructed from
4 Anchorage to Kenai to Homer and Kodiak, will enable a robust and truly diverse SONET
5 telecommunications ring, and will enhance the security of communications with the lower 48 states.

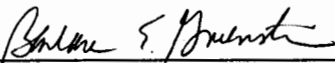
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7 NOW, THEREFORE, the Anchorage Municipal Assembly resolves that:

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9 The Anchorage Municipal Assembly joins the Kodiak Island Borough, the Kenai Peninsula
10 Borough, the cities of Kodiak, Kenai, Soldotna, the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference (SWAMC)
11 and the Alaska Aerospace Development Corporation (Kodiak Missile Launch Facility) in strongly
12 endorsing and supporting the construction of a marine fiber optic cable linking the City of Anchorage
13 to the cities of Kenai, Homer and Kodiak, and further supports the extension of this cable to link it with
14 the City of Seward, Alaska and thereby provide redundant high-speed, broadband, fiber optic
15 communications to Anchorage, Interior Alaska, and Southcentral Alaska.

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17 PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Assembly this 16th day of November,
18 2004.

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24 Chair

25 ATTEST:

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29 Municipal Clerk
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