



**KUSKOKWIM
CAMPUS**

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11/04/2004

Ms. Kate Giard, Program Administrator
Rural Alaska Broadband Internet Access Grant Program
Regulatory Commission of Alaska
701 West Eight Avenue, Suite 300
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Re: United Utilities, Inc. (UUI) Request for Supplementary Broadband Internet Access Grant Funds

Dear Ms. Giard:

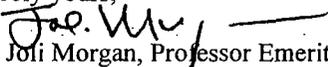
The Kuskokwim Campus (KuC) of the University of Alaska supports many of the higher education needs of the 46 villages throughout the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta. As part of University of Alaska Fairbanks' College of Rural Alaska we offer courses at our Bethel Campus and deliver distance education courses throughout the Delta and across the state. We also support branch campus outreach efforts in the hub communities of St. Mary's on the Yukon River and Aniak on the Kuskokwim River. As one of the key organizations offering rural residents access to educational content and technologies, we have a vested interest in seeing advanced telecommunications facilities deployed in our YK Delta communities.

The purpose of this correspondence is to voice support for UUI's Supplementary Broadband Internet Access Grant Funds request. It is our understanding that UUI is advancing a supplemental proposal to complete the 'Delta Net' project, central to which is the construction of terrestrial-based facilities across the Y-K Delta. I am encouraged that the RCA has funded UUI's original Delta Net vision. I'm sure your staff has informed you as to the benefits of terrestrial-based facilities versus our current satellite services. While not a telecommunications expert, I've been living and teaching in rural Alaska since 1967 and have become all too familiar with the 'death-by-double hop' difficulties and exorbitant costs associated with satellite-based facilities.

I am also encouraged that the RCA has included support for public access points, trained support staff, and IT training associated with this project. KuC has been very successful in training over 300 residents in the Delta in IT related skills and we feel strongly that local training, support and access to services is crucial to delivering 'the promise of broadband' in our communities. KuC will do all we can to support this 'infrastructure' component of the project.

It is extremely important to our campus that our students gain better access to technology, advanced telecommunications services, and subsequent distance education opportunities. The construction of terrestrial-based-facilities is forward thinking and the future of data communications for our underserved communities. The Kuskokwim Campus formally requests that you approve UUI's supplementary request so that this much needed project can move forward.

Sincerely yours,


(Mr.) Joli Morgan, Professor Emeritus
Interim Director, Kuskokwim Campus