

ALASKA JOINT BOARD MEETING
MARCH 1, 1993

I'M VERY PLEASED TO BE THE NEWEST, AND POSSIBLY THE OLDEST, KID ON THE BLOCK AT THE ALASKA JOINT BOARD. ALTHOUGH WE HAVE OUR WORK CUT OUT FOR US, I AM OPTIMISTIC THAT WE CAN MAKE REAL PROGRESS THESE NEXT FEW DAYS. AT THE SAME TIME, I RECOGNIZE THAT IT IS NO EASY TASK DEVELOPING A NEW ALASKA MARKET STRUCTURE THAT EQUALLY BALANCES ALL OF THE FIVE GOALS OUTLINED BY THIS BOARD IN 1983: UNIVERSAL SERVICE, RATE INTEGRATION, REVENUE REQUIREMENT NEUTRALITY, COMPETITION AND EFFICIENCY.

THE MEMORANDUM THAT YOU, THE STATE MEMBERS, PREPARED AND RELEASED IN NOVEMBER 1992 PROVIDES AN EXCELLENT BASIS FOR FURTHER DISCUSSIONS HERE TODAY. MUCH OF THE MEMORANDUM WE AGREE WITH, WHILE OTHER PARTS WILL REQUIRE FURTHER DISCUSSION. WHAT I WANT TO EMPHASIZE, HOWEVER, IS THAT ALL OF US AT THE FCC APPRECIATE YOUR HARD WORK AND YOUR SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION. TODAY WE HAVE A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO BUILD ON YOUR EFFORTS AND REACH CONSENSUS ON A NUMBER OF KEY ISSUES. IF WE ALL WORK TOGETHER TODAY AND TOMORROW I HAVE NO DOUBT REAL PROGRESS CAN BE MADE, PARTICULARLY IF WE REMEMBER OUR COMMON GOAL; IMPROVED TELEPHONE SERVICE FOR THE CITIZENS OF ALASKA.

I APOLOGIZE FOR ARRIVING LATE AND LEAVING EARLY, BUT I HAVE LEARNED VERY QUICKLY THAT AS THE CHAIRMAN OF THE FCC MY TIME AND MY DRUTHERS ARE NOT MY OWN. THEREFORE, I LEAVE YOU IN THE CAPABLE HANDS OF COMMISSIONER BARRETT, COMMISSIONER DUGGAN, WHO WILL BE HERE TOMORROW AND WHOSE LEGAL ADVISOR, LINDA OLIVER, IS PRESENT TODAY, CHERYL TRITT, THE FCC'S VERY ABLE COMMON CARRIER BUREAU CHIEF, AND HER EXCELLENT STAFF. IN ADDITION, I HAVE ASKED MY COMMON CARRIER LEGAL ADVISOR, KATHLEEN ABERNATHY TO PARTICIPATE IN ALL OF THE MEETINGS SO THAT I CAN BE KEPT INFORMED OF OUR PROGRESS. REST ASSURED, THE COMMISSION IS COMMITTED TO MOVING FORWARD TO RESOLVE THE ALASKA MARKET STRUCTURE QUESTIONS AS EXPEDITIOUSLY AS POSSIBLE.

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