

Telecommunications task force named

To ensure increased competition in the telecommunications industry is in the best interest of Alaska, Speaker Ramona Barnes appointed a Telecommunications Task Force.

AT&T has applied to the Alaska Public Utilities Commission to enter the Alaska phone market. "While I am not opposed to increased competition, I believe that the potential impact of losing the rate subsidy that Alaskans currently benefit from is tremendous, and therefore deserves a policy review from the legislature," said Barnes.

Appointed to the task force include Rep. Bill Hudson (R) Juneau, Rep. Haley Olberg (R) Delta Junction, and Rep. Mike Navarre (D) Kenai. Barnes also asked that three Senate members be appointed to the task force. A series of public hearings will be conducted to gather input statewide.