



**RESOLUTIONS PASSED AT THE 2012 SOUTHWEST ALASKA MUNICIPAL CONFERENCE
MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

FEBRUARY 17, 2012

- 12-03: A resolution requesting the Alaska Legislature to revisit Alaska Statute 29.45.500, requiring municipalities to match the current prime interest rate set by the Federal Reserve at the time of payment.
- 12-04: A resolution urging the Alaska state legislature to pass HB 250 to extend the renewable energy grant fund.
- 12-05: A resolution supporting HB 261, granting low interest loans for the acquisition of State of Alaska Limited Entry Permits for new fishermen.



RESOLUTION 2012-03

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE ALASKA LEGISLATURE TO REVISIT ALASKA STATUTE 29.45.500, REQUIRING MUNICIPALITIES TO MATCH THE CURRENT PRIME INTEREST RATE SET BY THE FEDERAL RESERVE AT THE TIME OF PAYMENT

WHEREAS, Title 29 lays out how a taxpayer may protest property taxes or bring a suit in the superior court against a municipality; and

WHEREAS, the municipality is then obligated to refund that amount of the taxes to the taxpayer; and

WHEREAS, the municipality is also instructed to refund the above taxes with interest at 8% from the date of payment, plus costs; and

WHEREAS, 8% is almost three times the amount paid by banks at the present time; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference requests that the Alaska Legislature revisit Alaska Statute 29.45.500 to match the current prime interest rate set by the Federal Reserve at the time of payment.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference on this 17th day of February, 2012.

Signed:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Shirley Marquardt", is written over a horizontal line.

Shirley Marquardt, President

Attest:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andy Varner", is written over a horizontal line.

Andy Varner, Executive Director



RESOLUTION 2012 - 04

A RESOLUTION OF THE SOUTHWEST ALASKA MUNICIPAL CONFERENCE URGING THE ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE TO PASS HB 250 TO EXTEND THE RENEWABLE ENERGY GRANT FUND.

WHEREAS, the cost of most fossil fuels, particularly diesel and heating oil, has increased dramatically in recent years; and

WHEREAS, in Southwest Alaska increases in the cost of fossil fuels, including diesel and heating oil, have caused, and continue to cause, substantial economic hardships on residential, business, and government rate payers; and

WHEREAS, Alaskans, particularly those in rural parts of the state including Southwest Alaska, are dependent on diesel-fired electric generation with retail rates over \$1 kilowatt per hour and heating oil for home heating with prices as high as \$8 per gallon in some areas; and

WHEREAS, in 2008, the Alaska Legislature passed HB 152 which established an energy fund for renewable projects across the state; and

WHEREAS, the program has gone through four rounds of grant applications and issued grants for 200 renewable energy projects across the state; and

WHEREAS, the program has emphasized issuing grants for those who see the highest power costs, and have made huge differences in the power rates of many small communities who otherwise would be totally dependent on diesel fuel; and

WHEREAS, through FY2011 the program has benefitted the SWAMC region by funding more than 30 projects with over \$23M in Renewable Energy Grant Funds, while displacing over 1 million gallons of diesel per year in the region; and

WHEREAS, HB 250 would extend this unique and important program through 2023 with an appropriation of \$50M per year; and

WHEREAS, an extension with guaranteed funding would continue to aid communities hit hard by rising fuel costs, while also helping Alaska achieve a path to energy sustainability and nearing its goal of having 50% of its electricity from renewable energy by 2025

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference urges the Alaska State Legislature to pass HB 250 to extend the Renewable Energy Grant Fund.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by a duly constituted quorum of the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference Membership this 17th day of February, 2012.

Signed:

Shirley Marquardt, President

Attest:

Andy Varner, Executive Director



RESOLUTION 2012 - 05

A resolution supporting HB 261, granting low interest loans for the acquisition of State of Alaska Limited Entry Permits for new fishermen.

WHEREAS, the cost of entry into the fisheries of State of Alaska Limited Entry Permits has increased; and

WHEREAS, the average age of State of Alaska Limited Entry Permit ownership has trended upward in recent years; and

WHEREAS, low interest loans could be an effective tool to facilitate more new Alaska fishermen into the State of Alaska Limited Entry Permit program; and

WHEREAS, access to capital should not be a barrier to capable fishermen; and

WHEREAS, Alaskans may not have lending criteria necessary to participate in the State fisheries; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the SWAMC Membership supports the passage of HB261, a Bill to encourage new entrants by offering low interest loans to Alaskans to acquire State of Alaska Limited Entry Permits for State fisheries.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by a duly constituted quorum of the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference Membership this 17th day of February, 2012.

Signed:

Shirley Marquardt, President

Attest:

Andy Varner, Executive Director