



Resolution 08-06

A resolution of the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference supporting increased financial participation of the State of Alaska in the public-private partnership that shapes the Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute.

WHEREAS, the Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute (ASMI) is a partnership between the State of Alaska and Alaska's seafood industry, with a mission of raising the value of the seafood harvest; and

WHEREAS, competition from foreign farmed seafood significantly devalued wild Alaska salmon in the past and threatens to devalue other wild Alaska whitefish and shellfish species in the future unless brand value for wild and sustainable Alaska Seafood can be retained and increased; and

WHEREAS, Alaska seafood industry contributions to ASMI form the core of ASMI's budget, with industry assessment contributing an average of \$6,000,000 to \$7,000,000 per year to the ASMI budget, funds that are used to leverage federal dollars for promoting Alaska Seafood in the U.S. markets and key overseas markets including Japan, China, and the European Union; and

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska, its citizens and communities benefit from a strong, sustained promotional effort for the Alaska Seafood brand that boosts the value of the products to the producers as well as boosting revenues to state and local governments; and

WHEREAS, statewide, Alaska's seafood industry contributes \$65,000,000 in taxes to state and local governments and employment in the form of 53,900 harvesting or processing jobs per year; and

WHEREAS, Southwest Alaska's shore-based processing sector alone in 2006 bought 2,056,028,564 pounds of seafood with a total ex-vessel value of \$558,979,701; and

WHEREAS, the seafood harvests of the Southwest Alaska are the greatest regional contribution to the statewide seafood economy; and

WHEREAS, Southwest Alaska region boasts vibrant commercial fisheries for key commercial species including salmon, Alaska Pollock, sole, halibut, cod, and crab; and

WHEREAS, in the Southwest Alaska region salmon accounts for about a quarter of the value of the commercial harvest, with the highest level of activity taking place in the

summer months, and other key commercial species harvested during the balance of the year, offering more steady employment and year round benefits to the economy; and

WHEREAS, historically and today the seafood industry is one of Southeast Alaska's and the State of Alaska's top private sector employers and plays a critical role in the economic health of communities throughout the region; and

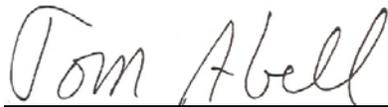
WHEREAS, most fisheries in Southwest Alaska are state managed, with many offering a more affordable entry cost for harvesters and processors, as well as the opportunity for new entrants into the fisheries, so support for seafood marketing and promotion has the potential to benefit Southeast Alaska even more in the future than it does today; and

WHEREAS, a vigorous seafood promotional effort for the Alaska Seafood brand by ASMI is an integral part of building the value of the commercial seafood harvest, and State of Alaska realizes substantial and measurable benefits by supporting and matching the private sector's investment in a stable seafood industry;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference supports increased financial participation of the State of Alaska in the public-private partnership that is ASMI, in the form of a State of Alaska appropriation to match the industry contributions to the effective promotional programs of the Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by a duly constituted quorum of the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference this 1st day of February 2008.

Signed:



Tom Abell
President

Attest:



Michael Catsi
Executive Director



Resolution 08-07

A resolution of the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference in support of optional and flexible net metering policies for Alaska's power-providing utilities.

- WHEREAS,** the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference (SWAMC) recognizes the immediacy and importance of addressing the issue of rising fuel costs within Alaska and specifically within the Southwest region; and
- WHEREAS,** SWAMC fully supports the initiative of investing in renewable energy as a means to lower energy costs and for the maximization of natural resources; and
- WHEREAS,** SWAMC recognizes that net metering provides a positive incentive for customers wanting to benefit from their renewable energy production; and
- WHEREAS,** the purpose of HB 288 regarding a statewide mandatory net-metering policy should be to lower energy costs as a whole while promoting the incorporation of renewable energy, rather than over-taxing the systems that work to provide consistent and reliable service; and
- WHEREAS,** HB 288 has the potential to be harmful to rural utilities in that the utilities would be forced to disproportionately credit small scale energy producers, thereby causing all users to pay more for power in order to subsidize the co-generators and resulting in a two-tiered customer base; and
- WHEREAS,** this type of mandate would be better-suited to larger utilities on the Railbelt who can absorb additional kilowatt generation into the grid while offering credits to the co-generators.
- NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference that if legislation is passed regarding net metering, each utility should be given the option and flexibility to devising a structure that would benefit renewable energy generators while also providing the lowest costs possible for their consumers.

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PASSED AND ADOPTED by a duly constituted quorum of the Southwest Alaska
Municipal Conference this first day of February, 2008.

Signed:



Tom Abell
President

Attest:



Michael Catsi
Executive Director



Resolution 08-08

A resolution of the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference in support of full funding for the State of Alaska Municipal Harbor Facility Matching Grant Program

- WHEREAS, harbors represent critical transportation links, hubs of waterfront commerce and economic development, and areas of protection for ocean-going vessels throughout Southwest Alaskan coastal communities; and
- WHEREAS, during the past decade, an increasing number of harbors have been transferred from state ownership to municipality responsibility ; and
- WHEREAS, the harbors were in poor condition at the time of the transfer due to the state's failure to keep up with deferred maintenance; and
- WHEREAS, consequently, when local harbormasters took over the budgeting for their facilities, they inherited a major financial burden that their local governments could not afford ; and
- WHEREAS, the Municipal Harbor Facility Grant Program was created to provide a one-time 50/50 matching grant for municipal harbor facilities, to be administered by the Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities; and
- WHEREAS, the program funds major maintenance and capital improvements to harbors by using a portion of the watercraft fuel tax and the state's share of the fisheries business tax; and
- WHEREAS, the full \$10 million in Harbor Grant funding was included in Governor Palin's proposed FY09 capital budget; and
- WHEREAS, the Grant Program would stimulate the economies and help create safer and more-functional harbors in Southwest Alaskan coastal communities,

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NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Membership of the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference urges the 25th Alaska State Legislature to maintain full funding to the Municipal Harbor Facility Matching Grant Program in the FY09 capital budget; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that SWAMC Membership encourages the SWAMC Legislative Delegation to support the Municipal Harbor Grant Fund in order to ensure enhanced safety and economic prosperity among Southwest Alaskan coastal communities.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by a duly constituted quorum of the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference this First day of February, 2008.

Signed:



Tom Abell
President

Attest:



Michael Catsi
Executive Director



Resolution 08-09

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE CREATION OF A STATE-FUNDED TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM TO INCLUDE ROAD, MARINE AND AIR TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE, CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska's Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOTPF) is updating the State's Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) to ensure the plan meets the State's needs through the year 2030 and to ensure it complies with SAFETEA-LU; and

WHEREAS, federal funds are the primary source for construction and repair of Alaska's highway transportation infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, our state highway, marine and air transportation infrastructure is in a financial crisis; and

WHEREAS, the amount of federal funds available to states has been flat and there are projections that the Highway Trust Fund will not allow for projects in 2009 unless federal taxes are increased; and

WHEREAS, if these problems are not solved, this crisis will result in major service reductions across the state; and

WHEREAS, Alaska is one of only two states that does not have a state funded capital transportation program, nor does it have a designated reserve fund for maintenance of Alaska transportation infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, new areas within and between communities cannot be opened up without transportation modes (surface, marine and air), but currently there seems to be no system through which to develop these new transportation systems; and

WHEREAS, the purchasing power of federal funds has declined due to inflation and ever increasing federal requirements and the high cost of construction; and

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska's transportation infrastructure is aging faster than repairs can be made at present funding levels. Alaska is experiencing declining road conditions

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such as increased congestion; pot holes and ruts are not being repaired; dust has become a health and safety hazard; and many of the vessels in the Alaska Marine Highway System are approaching the end of their useful lives; and

WHEREAS, poor road conditions and increased congestion lead to higher accident rates; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Highway program funds are not sufficient to meet needs and expectation of Alaska's citizens. With the projected funds received, the proposed State LRTP #1 priority will be to focus on the National Highway System, leaving insufficient funding for Alaska Highway Systems; local roads; and the Alaska Marine Highway System; and

WHEREAS, a focus on the National Highway System will put a disadvantage on rural Alaska; and

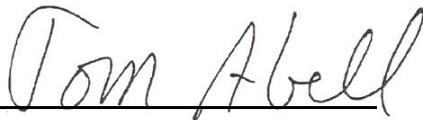
WHEREAS, using state funds will result in less expensive projects being constructed more quickly.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference urges the State of Alaska to develop a state-funded transportation program of \$300 million annually or more that will result in a long-term sustainable state-funded transportation program to address the Alaska Highway System; unmet needs of local roads; the Alaska Marine Highway System; and air transportation infrastructure.

AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the new transportation program should include provisions for a Community Block Grant program to address local transportation needs.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by a duly constituted quorum of the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference Membership this First day of February, 2008.

Signed:



Tom Abell
President

Attest:



Michael Catsi
Executive Director



Resolution 08-10

A resolution of the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference Encouraging the Governor to Develop a Strategic and Comprehensive Energy Policy with Identifiable Goals and Implementation to Follow

WHEREAS, Alaska possesses vast amounts of renewable energy resources in the form of wind, geothermal, biomass, solar, tidal, wave and hydro power; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Legislature established the Alaska Energy Policy Task Force in 2003 to review and analyze the State's current and long-term energy needs. The Task Force found that one of Alaska's long-term energy needs is to "identify and evaluate long-term fuel resources; and recommends that the State "increase the proportion of renewables in long-term fuel sources;" and

WHEREAS, there is virtually no fuel costs associated with most renewable energy sources; and

WHEREAS, renewable energy technology development promotes both industry and job creation; and

WHEREAS, SWAMC fully supports the intent of HB 152 and the Legislature should provide sufficient funding to adequately implement the bill; and

WHEREAS, ISER's December 2005 Research Summary states, "Diesel is the main energy source in remote communities... and in 2004, diesel outside the rail belt cost about 5 times as much per unit of energy as natural gas;" and

WHEREAS, community facilities such as electrical plants, water & sewer services, and health clinics use diesel fuel, rural Alaskan residents are dependent on diesel fuel to generate and heat homes. Along with the high cost of energy, it impacts the economic conditions. The State of Alaska's Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development's report, "Current Community Conditions: Fuel Prices Across Alaska; June 1007 Update," reported the average price of home heating fuel in western Alaska for 2007 at \$4.73 per gallon, which is up from 2006; and

WHEREAS, there are numerous agencies dealing with energy assistance, both federal, state and international specialists; and

WHEREAS, the State and local governments deal on a daily basis with energy crisis issues, yet there is no long-term energy policy in place with like goals for which we can all strive.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference encourages the Governor to develop a strategic and comprehensive energy policy with identifiable goals with implementation to follow.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference requests our Alaska Congressional Delegation, the Office of the Governor and the Alaska State Legislature to address the energy needs of Alaska families by:

- Creating a Renewable Energy Fund to finance new utility scale renewable energy projects in Alaska. The fund shall be funded by general appropriations. The fund shall be distinct from funds administered by Alaska Energy Authority
- Within the fund, creating a program to conduct energy research, development, demonstration and applications
- Creating a cabinet level position to coordinate efforts and centralize State and federal resources to solve the long term energy crisis
- Within the fund, creating a “revolving loan program” to assist individuals, organizations, businesses and government agencies in purchasing and installing alternative energy products
- Establishing a fund to remediate immediate energy crisis needs

PASSED AND ADOPTED by a duly constituted quorum of the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference this 1st day of February 2008.

Signed:



Tom Abell
President

Attest:



Michael Catsi
Executive Director



Resolution 08-11

A resolution of the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference in support of Research for Appropriate Habitat Intervention for Black Lake

- WHEREAS, the health of the environment and habitat for fish is critical to productivity and sustained yield and generational success of all fish stocks; and
- WHEREAS, attention to habitat improvement or restoration can have a critical impact upon localized salmon stock wellbeing; and
- WHEREAS, natural events have drastically altered smolt-rearing habitat of Black Lake near Chignik, a condition that may be correctable through intervention.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference strongly supports research to identify appropriate habitat interventions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that an excellent candidate would be Black Lake, in the Chignik Management Area, where runs have declined by over 50 percent in recent years due to failure in the smolt-rearing habitat that may be correctable by habitat intervention.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by a duly constituted quorum of the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference Board of Directors this 2nd day of February, 2008.

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Abell".

Tom Abell
President

Attest:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Catsi".

Michael Catsi
Executive Director



February 7, 2008

Governor Sarah Palin
P.O. Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811-0001

Dear Governor Palin:

The City of Aleknagik's number one priority capital improvement project is the construction of a bridge over the Wood River. The City has had this as a number one priority for many years and it is now close to being construction ready. The construction of this bridge across the Wood River would alleviate the safety concerns of the community's residents.

Residents traveling between the southern portion of the community and the north community must do so by small skiffs on a year round basis. This bridge would provide safe passage for school children traveling to Dillingham and to the North shore of Aleknagik in all weather and ice conditions. Other community residents have risked their lives in times of poor weather conditions just to participate in day to day activities.

Over the years many people have lost their lives in this crossing and a bridge would provide a safe crossing point at Aleknagik, which is the junction of winter trails between the villages in the area that travel to Dillingham for supplies, travel to hunting and recreational areas, and to visit family and friends in other villages.

The Wood River Bridge would provide better connection between the communities of Dillingham and Aleknagik, not only stimulating economic opportunity and development for Aleknagik, Dillingham, and surrounding communities, but also providing opportunities for cooperative efforts.

This bridge will also provide access to the State Park system and would provide a transportation link to the Wood-Tikchik State Park, which hosts a high-volume of visitors annually from around the world.

The bridge is part of the Dillingham/Bristol Bay Corridor (DOT&PF Southwest Alaska Transportation Plan) and is currently programmed in the STIP. This active project has completed its environmental assessment document (EA), finalizing design, and is moving into the right-of-way phase.

The construction phase is only partially funded with federal dollars with the rest of construction funds identified as potential State funds; in order to keep the project on schedule, it is necessary for the Legislature to provide these needed construction funds this Legislative session.

There are compelling reasons why the state of Alaska should move forward with funding to complete this project. You have stated that the State's funding priorities should be based on public safety and transportation issues, and the construction of this bridge definitely falls into these two categories. In addition, you also stated last summer that hearing from communities regarding their capital needs is important. Aleknagik is attempting to reach out to the Legislature and the Administration to stress the significance of this project and what it will mean to their community and the region as a whole.

The Board of Directors of the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference ask that the Governor and Legislature support the construction of and State funding for the Aleknagik Wood River Bridge as included in the 06-09 STIP, with construction to begin in 2010.

Sincerely
SOUTHWEST ALASKA MUNICIPAL CONFERENCE

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Catsi", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Michael Catsi
Executive Director

Cc: Mr Leo von Scheben, Commissioner DOT&PF