



2010 Resolution Packet

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SOUTHWEST ALASKA MUNICIPAL CONFERENCE

RESOLUTION 2010-04

A RESOLUTION OF THE ALASKA MUNICIPAL CONFERENCE REGARDING SUPPORT FOR SENATE BILL 4 AND HOUSE BILL 74, WHICH MAKE AMENDMENTS TO THE ALASKA COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

WHEREAS, one of the goals of the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference is to preserve local government options to ensure municipal government can be highly responsive to unique local circumstances and to meet the mandate of the Alaska Constitution “to provide for maximum local self government;” and

WHEREAS, since its inception in 1977, the Alaska Coastal Management Program (ACMP) has provided Alaska’s coastal municipalities a powerful tool to promote responsible development while protecting coastal resources and uses; and

WHEREAS, a cornerstone of the ACMP has been the ability for municipalities organized as coastal districts to develop enforceable policies that address local circumstances and concerns; and

WHEREAS, changes to the ACMP statutes in 2003 and changes to the ACMP regulations in 2004 reduced the effectiveness of the ACMP, including a diminished role for coastal districts, including the inability to establish meaningful local enforceable policies, the removal of air and water quality from coordinated ACMP project reviews, and elimination of the Coastal Policy Council that facilitated public engagement in administrative and program decisions; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 4 and House Bill 74 would bring air and water quality issues back into the coordinated ACMP project review process; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 4 and House Bill 74 would establish the Coastal Policy Board which would restore the role of coastal districts and state agencies in making policy decisions for coastal management including the approval of coastal district plans, amendments to ACMP regulations, and overall ACMP grant programs.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference supports Senate Bill 4 and House bill 74 and urges the Alaska State Legislature to pass these bills which would restore meaningful local participation in the ACMP.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by a duly constituted quorum of the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference Membership this Fifth day of February, 2010.

Signed:

Attest:



Alice Ruby
President

Michael Catsi
Executive Director

SOUTHWEST ALASKA MUNICIPAL CONFERENCE

RESOLUTION 2010-05

A RESOLUTION OF THE SOUTHWEST ALASKA MUNICIPAL CONFERENCE IN SUPPORT OF THE ALASKA PARTNERSHIP FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT'S "ALASKA FORWARD" INITIATIVE TO DEVELOP A LONG TERM ECONOMIC STRATEGY FOR ALASKA

WHEREAS, Alaska's economy is challenged to provide quality jobs for the state's residents, cover the costs of government services, and build the economic infrastructure needed to be globally competitive; and

WHEREAS, Alaska is facing a unique set of longer term economic challenges that if unaddressed will see long term stagnation and fewer sustainable opportunities for current and future generations; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Partnership for Economic Development has recognized the critical juncture we are at and the need for collaboration to work toward a common goal: long term economic prosperity for all Alaskans; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Partnership for Economic Development has secured funding from the Denali Commission to begin a process of creating a private-public partnership to articulate a comprehensive economic development strategy for Alaska, known as "*Alaska Forward: Toward a Next Generation Economy*"; and

WHEREAS, the *Alaska Forward* initiative is being implemented in two phases: Phase 1 – comprehensive economic data collection and analysis, and Phase 2 – the crafting of an economic development plan and implementation strategy; and

WHEREAS, Phase 1 is a situational analysis that is looking at the position of Alaska and its economic sub-regions in the global economy benchmarking the state against a reference group of economic regions and examining current approaches to economic development compared to "best practices;" and

WHEREAS, Phase 2 will use the data analysis in Phase 1 to create new public policy and private sector initiatives, as well as initiate institutional reform of the state's regulatory regime; and

WHEREAS, this initiative will ultimately provide guidance to the Alaska Legislature and Administration, government policy-makers, economic development organizations, and local governments on successful long term economic strategies; and

WHEREAS, unlike previous efforts, the *Alaska Forward* initiative is focused on strategic implementation of the recommendations that result from this project.

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NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference supports the Alaska Partnership for Economic Development's "*Alaska Forward*" initiative to develop a long term economic strategy for Alaska.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference supports a vision of a future Alaska where people have good jobs that provide a good income; where globally competitive businesses thrive; where both cultural and geographic diversity are embraced; and regions with vibrant, connected communities have a high quality of life built upon Alaska's unique gifts.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by a duly constituted quorum of the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference Membership this Fifth day of February, 2010.

Signed:



Alice Ruby
President

Attest:



Michael Catsi
Executive Director

SOUTHWEST ALASKA MUNICIPAL CONFERENCE

RESOLUTION 2010-07

A RESOLUTION BY THE SOUTHWEST ALASKA MUNICIPAL CONFERENCE TAKING A STRONG POSITION AGAINST “AN INITIATIVE CREATING AN ALASKA ANTI-CORRUPTION ACT” (PROP 7), WHICH WILL BE PLACED ON THE 2010 PRIMARY ELECTION BALLOT

WHEREAS, there has been a move to place this initiative on ballots across the United States; and

WHEREAS, this initiative has been filed with the Lt. Governor’s Office in Alaska and will be on the August 24, 2010 primary election ballot; and

WHEREAS, the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference believes that this initiative will take away the rights of Alaskan municipalities and public officials as well as their ability to effectively lobby their state and/or federal representatives; and

WHEREAS, this initiative would basically close down or severely hamper all organizations that rely on dues that come directly or indirectly from tax revenues, to include, but not restricted to: State of Alaska ARDORS (SWAMC, Southeast Conference, etc.)

All municipalities that use contract lobbyists

Alaska Association of School Boards

National Association of Counties and National League of Cities

Alaska Municipal League

All AML affiliates: ACoM (Mayors), AMMA (Managers), AAMC (Clerks), AAAO (Assessors), AFCA (Fire Chiefs), AGFOA (Finance Officers), AMAA (Attorneys) and others.

Union Organizations


WHEREAS, prohibiting local government officials (and others named in the initiative) from “directly or indirectly” from “using, directing, permitting, receiving, or facilitating” the use of tax revenues for “campaigning, lobbying, or partisan purposes” would result in local government officials being unable to weigh in on the issues that they deal with on a day-to-day basis, and

WHEREAS, this initiative also tramples on many other “First Amendment Rights,” that would specifically target all organizations that advocate on and with government issues, by taking away their right to lobby and/or take positions with regards to upcoming legislation that may affect them and their ability to operate in a manner set forth by their constituents and/or members.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference takes a strong position against “An Initiative Creating an Alaska Anti-Corruption Act (Prop 7), which will be placed on the 2010 Primary Election Ballot.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by a duly constituted quorum of the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference Membership this Fifth day of February, 2010.

Signed:



Alice Ruby
President

Attest:



Michael Catsi
Executive Director

SOUTHWEST ALASKA MUNICIPAL CONFERENCE

RESOLUTION 2010-08

A RESOLUTION OF THE SOUTHWEST ALASKA MUNICIPAL CONFERENCE IN SUPPORT OF LEGISLATION ESTABLISHING REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATIONS (RTPO) IN THE STATE OF ALASKA

WHEREAS, transportation planning in Alaska is developed primarily by the Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities, along with the two established Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO) in Anchorage and Fairbanks; and

WHEREAS, rural and smaller communities often find that their input is given inadequate value and priority when local transportation plans are developed; and

WHEREAS, Regional Transportation Planning Organizations (RTPO) provide a forum for local input on transportation issues impacting regions of 100,000 or less; and

WHEREAS, RTPOs are similar in nature and structure to MPOs and will strengthen the current requirement for state DOTs to partner with local elected and appointed officials from “consultation” to “cooperation” as defined under federal law; and

WHEREAS, RTPOs serve as a link between state DOTs, elected officials (both local and tribal), and citizens in ensuring there is formal and continuous input from regional leaders and stakeholders into the statewide transportation planning and decision-making process; and

WHEREAS, RTPOs provide technical assistance to local governments, assist with public involvement, facilitate participation of local officials in the statewide planning process, assist with applications for Transportation Enhancement grants, and develop regional priorities for the STIP, among other activities relevant to the region; and

WHEREAS, RTPOs may bring more transportation funding to rural Alaska where many transportation funding requirements are currently often too stringent for small population numbers; and

WHEREAS, RTPOs will permit locals to have more input into the sustainability and appropriate design of projects and plans in their respective regions, ensuring that technology relevant to rural Alaskan conditions is implemented; and

WHEREAS, RTPOs in Alaska will provide an information clearinghouse to oversee research and education on financing mechanisms to make the planning process easier; and

WHEREAS, RTPOs are an effective and recognized planning tool utilized by twenty nine (29) other states, while none currently exist in Alaska; and

WHEREAS, RTPOs are typically established through an agreement or contract with state DOTs to perform a variety of activities: e.g. managing planning activities, data collection and analysis, and facilitating the public participation process.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference supports legislation establishing Regional Transportation Planning Organizations in the State of Alaska.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by a duly constituted quorum of the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference Membership this Fifth day of February, 2010.

Signed:

Attest:



Alice Ruby
President

Michael Catsi
Executive Director

SOUTHWEST ALASKA MUNICIPAL CONFERENCE

RESOLUTION 2010-09

A RESOLUTION OF THE SOUTHWEST ALASKA MUNICIPAL CONFERENCE CALLING FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A PILOT PROJECT FOR COLLECTING CREW MEMBER DATA IN SOUTHWEST ALASKA.

WHEREAS, commercial seafood harvesting is an important sector of the Alaskan economy and a major part of the economic base for Southwest Alaska, and

WHEREAS, a large percentage of the labor force in commercial seafood harvesting is not represented in state or federal labor data, and

WHEREAS, multiple agencies in the State of Alaska and the U.S. government are responsible for gathering, processing, and reporting data used to regulate and manage commercial seafood harvesting, and

WHEREAS, incomplete, inaccurate, or incompatible information on the commercial seafood harvesting sector, across jurisdictions and agencies, hinders the efforts of government agencies, stakeholder communities, economic development organizations, and the private sector to understand, cooperate, and resolve issues impacting the sector, and

WHEREAS, this lack of labor information hinders the ability of individual participants in the harvesting sector to access and participate in state and federal programs available to other workers who have been impacted by labor fluctuations, and

WHEREAS, this lack of labor information precludes timely intervention and response by individuals, the fishing industry and government when the number and quality of seafood harvesting jobs are being adversely impacted by declining fishery values, increased foreign competition, or changes in fishery policies and management, and

WHEREAS, elected leaders, fishery policy makers, and fishery managers are asked to make key decisions and policies that impact the seafood harvesting sector absent information about the history and impacts those decisions and policies may have; and

WHEREAS, the collection of information on the fishing activities of commercial crew members has a number of challenges, identified in the recently completed ADF&G consultant's feasibility analysis;

WHEREAS, this study has identified a preferred alternative for collecting crew member data that requires crewmembers to complete log books recording their participation in the year's fisheries; and

WHEREAS, it would be prudent to proceed cautiously and incremental on developing this new crew member data collection system, given the complexities identified by the consultant;

WHEREAS, the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference continues its interest in this project;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that SWAMC requests the State of Alaska to develop and implement a pilot project for collecting crew member data in southwest Alaska;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference requests that the Alaska State Legislature provide funding to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game for development and implementation of a pilot project to collect crew member data in southwest Alaska; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference call on all stakeholders in the commercial seafood harvesting sector to contribute to the success of this initiative through contributions of time, expertise, and resources.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by a duly constituted quorum of the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference Membership this Fifth day of February, 2010.

Signed:



Alice Ruby
President

Attest:



Michael Catsi
Executive Director

SOUTHWEST ALASKA MUNICIPAL CONFERENCE

RESOLUTION 2010-10

A RESOLUTION OF THE SOUTHWEST ALASKA MUNICIPAL CONFERENCE URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO CLASSIFY HYDROELECTRIC POWER AS A RENEWABLE AND ALTERNATIVE ENERGY SOURCE.

WHEREAS, fossil fuels such as oil, natural gas, and coal are important sources of energy for the electric power supply system of the United States; and

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

WHEREAS, increases in the cost of fossil fuels such as oil have caused, and continue to cause, substantial increases in the electric bills of residential, business, and governmental rate payers at a time when the economy of the United States is in a major recession; and

WHEREAS, the United States is dependent on foreign sources for a majority of its oil supply; and

WHEREAS, oil and other fossil fuels are finite resources that contribute to growing worldwide concerns over carbon and other environmental effects; and

WHEREAS, Alaskans, particularly those in rural parts of the state including Southwest Alaska, are dependent on oil-fired electric generation with retail rates as high as \$1 a kilowatt-hour; and

WHEREAS, hydroelectric power is a viable source of renewable, and long-lasting electric energy in many areas of the state; and

WHEREAS, hydroelectric energy can be developed in Alaska using high-elevation lakes and run-of-the-river systems that have few or no negative environmental effects; and

WHEREAS, it is the policy of the state to encourage development of its abundant hydroelectric potential and wind, geothermal, and other renewable and alternative energy sources to reduce dependence on fossil fuels for electric power generation and to reduce the cost of electricity to rate payers; and

WHEREAS, some federal laws and federal renewable and alternative energy programs do not classify hydroelectric power as a renewable or alternative energy source; and

WHEREAS, regions of the United States outside of Alaska have limited water supplies or water shortages that could lead to classifying hydroelectric power as nonrenewable, but many areas of Alaska have ample water supplies that are capable of providing a renewable energy source for hydroelectric projects in the state, and

WHEREAS, southwest Alaska has a number of successful hydroelectric projects and has the capacity for many more;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference urges the United States Congress to take the necessary action to classify hydroelectric power as a renewable and alternative energy source so that the state can participate in federal programs without restriction to facilitate development of the state's hydroelectric resources for the benefit of its residents.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by a duly constituted quorum of the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference Membership this Fifth day of February, 2010.

Signed:



Alice Ruby
President

Attest:



Michael Catsi
Executive Director

SOUTHWEST ALASKA MUNICIPAL CONFERENCE

RESOLUTION 2010-11

A RESOLUTION OF THE SOUTHWEST ALASKA MUNICIPAL CONFERENCE URGING THE SUPPORT OF CONTINUED FUNDING FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY STATEWIDE.

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 governmental rate payers; and

WHEREAS, Southwest Alaska is dependent on foreign sources for the majority of its oil supply; and

WHEREAS, diesel and other fossil fuels are finite resources that contribute to growing worldwide concerns over societies carbon footprint and have negative environmental effects to ecosystems; and

WHEREAS, Alaskans, particularly those in rural parts of the state including Southwest Alaska, are dependent on diesel-fired electric generation with retail rates as high as \$1 kilowatt per hour and heating oil for home heating with prices as high as \$7 per gallon; and

WHEREAS, the State has established funds for supporting and enabling renewable energy and energy efficiency projects; and

WHEREAS, the SWAMC communities have benefited from existing funding of renewable and energy efficiency projects;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference encourages our legislators to continue funding renewable energy and energy efficiency projects that will help make our communities more sustainable.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by a duly constituted quorum of the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference Membership this Fifth day of February, 2010.

Signed:

Attest:



Alice Ruby
President

Michael Catsi
Executive Director