



Membership Resolution FY16-01

A RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE REAUTHORIZATION AND FUNDING OF ALASKA REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS (ARDOR)

WHEREAS, the 15th Alaska State Legislature created the Alaska Regional Economic Assistance Program in 1988, establishing the formation of Alaska Regional Development Organizations (ARDOR) around Alaska; and

WHEREAS, unless the ARDOR program is reauthorized by July 1, 2016 it will “sunset” and lose State of Alaska recognition as a regional economic development entity and damage the ability of ARDORs to apply for and receive rural development grants and Federal funding; and

WHEREAS, the ARDOR Program’s mission has remained consistent throughout the years: to encourage the formation of regional development organizations to prepare and implement regional development strategies; and

WHEREAS, for over 27 years the program has been a critical link between Alaska’s regions (primarily rural) and the State in terms of economic development needs and opportunities, challenges, and major issues impeding regional progress; and

WHEREAS, for minimal expense, the State of Alaska through the ARDORs provides support for local leaders to gather, mobilize, and execute initiatives to improve Alaska’s statewide, regional, and local economies; and

WHEREAS, Alaska’s vast and rural regions have their own unique challenges and solutions when it comes to economic development and ARDORs provide the forum for stakeholders to come together and find common ground in local strategies that work; and

WHEREAS, many ARDORs have provided valuable community outreach and engagement as part of managing energy planning and energy efficiency efforts for the Alaska Energy Authority; and

WHEREAS, many ARDORs engaged with the businesses to assess obstacles for business viability and growth to help develop strategies for maintaining a healthy private sector; and

WHEREAS, loss of the ARDOR program would be a huge loss to areas of the State that are attempting to develop economies and create jobs in the areas of high unemployment with expensive energy and transportation costs (for example truss manufacturing in the Yukon-Kuskokwim region using locally harvested wood); and

WHEREAS, the State and ARDORs have fully complied with accountability and reporting requirements included in ARDOR statutes when the Legislature reestablished the program in 2014; and

WHEREAS, Governor Walker retained program money in the FY17 Alaska State Budget as a vehicle to fund the ARDORs once they are reauthorized; and

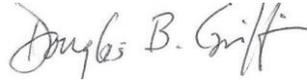
WHEREAS, program analysis has shown that each dollar of State funding can leverage U.S. Economic Development Administration planning grants, other Federal funding, and membership contributions.

THEREFORE, NOW BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors and membership of Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference urges the 29th Alaska Legislature to pass and the Governor to sign a bill to reauthorize the ARDOR program for five years before the July 1, 2016 sunset date and retain maintenance level funding for qualifying ARDOR organizations.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference membership on the 4th day of March, 2016.

IN WITNESS THERETO:

ATTEST:



Layton Lockett, President

Doug Griffin, Executive Director

Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference

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