



### MEMBERSHIP RESOLUTION FY18-03

#### A RESOLUTION BY THE SOUTHWEST ALASKA MUNICIPAL CONFERENCE MEMBERSHIP SUPPORTING THE “COASTAL COMMUNITIES OCEAN ACIDIFICATION ACT OF 2017” INTRODUCED BY SENATOR LISA MURKOWSKI

**WHEREAS**, Ocean Acidification (OA) has been identified as a persistent and potentially devastating consequence of ocean absorption of carbon in the atmosphere; and

**WHEREAS**, average ocean pH is about 8.0 or 8.1 and the pH is projected to decline to a range of 7.1 to 7.8 based on the amount of carbon in the atmosphere now and modeled into the future and the projected rate of ocean absorption of carbon; and

**WHEREAS**, because pH is measured on a logarithmic scale this amount of change in the pH amounts to a 60-70 percent increase in acidity; and

**WHEREAS**, work being done at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Lab in Kodiak indicates that crab and other shellfish have a hard time accessing a substance called carbonate at these more acidic pH levels and a key salmon food source, pteropods, are similarly affected; and

**WHEREAS**, in recognition of this potential threat to marine ecosystems, commercial seafood species, and the coastal communities that depend on these resources, Senator Lisa Murkowski introduced the “Coastal Communities Ocean Acidification Act of 2017” (S. 2229) on December 14, 2017 with the bipartisan co-sponsorship of Senators Collins, Peters, Whitehouse, and Cantwell; and

**WHEREAS**, S.2229 directs the NOAA Administrator “to conduct coastal community vulnerability assessments related to ocean acidification”; and

**WHEREAS**, a vulnerability assessment of coastal communities is vital to prepare potentially affected communities for economic disruption and take mitigation actions to address the economic, social, and cultural threats attributable to OA; and

**WHEREAS**, protection of resources that drive economic and community well-being and quality of life is the primary mission of the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference; and

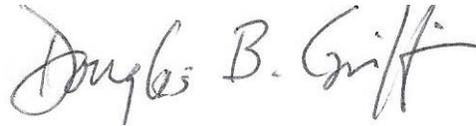
**WHEREAS**, SWAMC stands ready to assist in the effort to better understand OA and the threat that it poses to the SWAMC members and all coastal communities within its jurisdiction.

**NOW BE IT RESOLVED** that the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference Membership strongly supports passage of S. 2229 – “Coastal Communities Ocean Acidification Act of 2017” and urges hearings, consideration, and passage of this legislation by the 115<sup>th</sup> U.S. Congress and signature into law by President Trump.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference Membership on this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of March 2018.

IN WITNESS THERETO:

ATTEST:



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Rebecca Skinner, SWAMC President

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Doug Griffin, SWAMC Executive Director