



MEMBERSHIP RESOLUTION FY19-03

**A RESOLUTION BY THE SOUTHWEST ALASKA MUNICIPAL CONFERENCE MEMBERSHIP SUPPORTING
ADEQUATE FUNDING FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA**

WHEREAS, a strong university system is integral to an environment of economic and business development; and

WHEREAS, the University of Alaska system provides a wide variety of course offerings with tuition rates that are competitive with other institutions of higher learning; and

WHEREAS, the University of Alaska is rated as the number one Arctic research university in the U.S., does work in Alaska fisheries, and economic and business development; and

WHEREAS, any State that wishes to claim it is open for business to diversify its economy must have a vibrant and distinguished University system to support advances in technology and innovation; and

WHEREAS, the University of Alaska has had to absorb \$246 million in cuts since 2015; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's FY20 budget calls for a reduction of \$134 million in the University of Alaska budget; and

WHEREAS, University President Jim Johnson testifying before the Senate Finance Committee says the University system has dealt with funding cuts in recent years by reducing its workforce by about 1,300 employees, has raised tuition by about 8 percent over the past five years, and reduced classes and programs; and

WHEREAS, Johnson further warned the Senate Finance Committee that the cuts proposed by the Governor in his FY20 budget, if adopted, could push the university system into a self-perpetuating downward spiral of more layoffs, tuition hikes, and cutbacks in classes, programs, and research; and

WHEREAS, the rural University campuses in the SWAMC region are important resources for residents and contribute a great deal toward economic and workforce development; and

WHEREAS, it is unclear how these cuts will be allocated throughout the university system, but SWAMC members fear that rural campuses in its region may be eliminated or severely restructured.

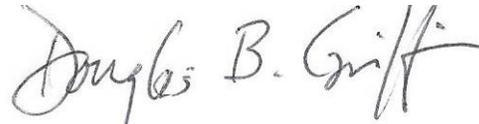
NOW BE IT RESOLVED that the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference Membership supports continued funding for the University of Alaska to maintain the level of academic programming and research in which it is presently engaged and provide additional time to seek other revenue sources and cost containment measures that do not impact the quantity and quality of service it delivers.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference Membership this 28th day of February 2019.

IN WITNESS THERETO:



Mary Swain, SWAMC Board President



Doug Griffin, SWAMC Executive Director