



MEMBERSHIP RESOLUTION FY19-08

**A RESOLUTION BY THE SOUTHWEST ALASKA MUNICIPAL CONFERENCE MEMBERSHIP SUPPORTING CONTINUED SUSTAINABLE FUNDING FOR THE ALASKA PUBLIC BROADCASTING COMMISSION AND PUBLIC BROADCASTING IN ALASKA**

**WHEREAS**, public broadcasting plays a vital role in Alaska, particularly in rural parts of the State that often have no practical alternative for information; and

**WHEREAS**, State of Alaska support provided through the Alaska Public Broadcasting Commission (APBC) is vital for rural radio stations that provide life-saving weather forecasting and warnings for mariners and fishermen, support and information for search and rescue efforts, public safety notifications serving as the emergency broadcast system, community announcements, state and national news, and local programming that fosters a sense of community in isolated cities and villages in Alaska; and

**WHEREAS**, many rural communities served by public broadcasting do not have private radio stations or other sources of news, weather, sports, and entertainment; and

**WHEREAS**, the Governor’s proposed FY20 budget cuts about \$3.6 million to totally eliminate the APBC and all State support for public broadcasting in Alaska; and

**WHEREAS**, the loss of this valuable asset of local and regional public broadcasting will probably close down rural stations that provide information to improve the safety, health, and well-being of rural Alaskans.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference Membership supports continued sustainable funding for the Alaska Public Broadcasting Commission that provides timely, life-saving information, news, and entertainment to the residents of Alaska.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference Membership this 28<sup>th</sup> day of February 2019.

IN WITNESS THERETO:

Mary Swain, SWAMC Board President

Doug Griffin, SWAMC Executive Director