



**ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE
STATEWIDE PRIORITIES
2014**

• **ENERGY**

We believe the Legislature must aggressively facilitate energy efficiency and affordable energy for all Alaskans through:

1. The support of oil and gas, as it remains the primary source of energy for most of Alaska;
2. Support for research on and development of alternative and renewable energy sources, including, but not limited to, wind and hydro;
3. The encouragement of connectivity between communities, as well as incentives for energy project funding and energy efficiency for all consumers;
4. An actual time certain process that selects and prioritizes projects;
5. Full funding of the PCE (Power Cost Equalization) Endowment fund through joint congressional and state appropriations.

• **PERS**

The League supports a sustainable salary base to pay off the PERS unfunded obligations. AS 39.35.625, and any other similar statutes or regulations that require termination studies should be repealed. Simply following AS 39.35.255(a)(2) will provide a more efficient, cost effective and equitable method of ensuring that the required PERS salary base is maintained.

• **REVENUE SHARING**

The League supports a continuation of the current Revenue Sharing Program currently in place (AS 29.60.850-879).

• **UNFUNDED MANDATES**

The League opposes state unfunded mandates in any form. This includes “optional” exemptions handed down to local governments that will diminish the local tax base.

• **TRANSPORTATION**

The League supports:

1. The dedication of funds for the Alaska Transportation Infrastructure Fund, along with a local government seat at the table during allocation considerations of that fund.
2. A matching grant component for acquiring federal funds and to help local governments to develop otherwise financially difficult projects;
3. The completion of the Alaska State Rail Plan.



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FEDERAL PRIORITIES

2014

- **PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAXES (PILT)**
The League supports full funding of the PILT program, to the authorized levels of P.L. 103-379 (over \$300 million, nationwide).
- **SECURE RURAL SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY SELF-DETERMINATION ACT (SRS/TIMBER RECEIPTS)**
The League supports the reauthorization and enhancement of the Secure Rural Schools Program (P.L. 112-141). Reauthorization should maintain coupling between payments to boroughs and active natural resource management; and the connection between sustainable natural resource management and the stability and well-being of forest municipalities.
- **CLEAN WATER ACT**
While supporting clean water act provisions that protect wetland habitats and rivers and streams of Alaska, the League opposes federal efforts to change the definition of the Clean Water Act from “navigable” waters to “waters of the United States,” and also opposes federal efforts to further expand the authority and responsibilities of the federal agencies in regard to these waters.
- **ARCTIC ISSUES**
The League asks Congress to be aware of the importance of the arctic region as it relates to national security, environmental concerns relating to the use of the seas, and to economic development for Alaska’s coastal communities.
- **LAND USE DESIGNATIONS**
The League opposes decisions on land use designations that are not completely reviewed through the proper Congressional system, with appropriate state and local input. The League urges Congress to immediately convey all remaining state and Native selected land.
- **ENERGY EFFICIENCY GRANTS**
The League supports full funding of the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program to state and local governments.