



## **ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE**

### **RESOLUTION #2015-01**

#### **A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE REINSTATEMENT OF A FULL \$60 MILLION INTO THE REVENUE SHARING FUND ON A YEARLY BASIS WITH A ONE-YEAR APPROPRIATION OF \$8 MILLION TO THE FUND WITH AN EFFECTIVE DATE PRIOR TO JUNE 30, 2015**

**WHEREAS**, all of Alaska's boroughs and cities are appreciative to the Governor and the Legislature for the continuation of the Revenue Sharing program; and

**WHEREAS**, since 2008, municipalities have received a total of \$60 million per year to be divided among all boroughs, cities and unorganized communities in the State; and

**WHEREAS**, this money is a small share of the resource funding that is provided to the State; and

**WHEREAS**, \$60 million is also a small part of the total state-wide budget for the year; and

**WHEREAS**, municipalities are political subdivisions of the State of Alaska; and

**WHEREAS**, boroughs and cities can only raise their own money through increased taxes and/or fees; and

**WHEREAS**, in the past 2014 Legislative Session, the amount deposited into the Revenue Sharing fund dropped to \$52 million; and

**WHEREAS**, the larger municipalities use these funds to keep taxes as low as possible; and

**WHEREAS**, the smaller municipalities use these funds to provide basic services, such as snow removal, public building maintenance, harbor upkeep, fuel and insurance.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska Municipal League requests the Alaska State Legislature to reinstate the amount of \$60 million on an annual basis into the Revenue Sharing Fund and also that the Alaska State Legislature appropriate an additional \$8 million to the fund with an effective date prior to June 30, 2015.

**PASSED AND APPROVED** by the Alaska Municipal League on this 21<sup>st</sup> day of November, 2014.

Signed:   
Linda Murphy, President, Alaska Municipal League

Attest: Kathie Wasserman  
Kathie Wasserman, Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League



## ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE

### RESOLUTION #2015-02

**A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THAT THE STATE OF ALASKA CONTINUE TO HONOR THEIR COMMITMENT WITH NON-STATE PERS EMPLOYERS WHICH CAPS THEIR PAST AND PRESENT SERVICE COSTS AT 22% OF SALARY; AND THAT THE STATE CONTINUE TO WORK WITH AML TO FIND A SOLUTION TO THE ONEROUS TERMINATION STUDY AND BELOW THE FLOOR COSTS**

**WHEREAS**, through 2008 legislation, SB 125, municipalities were committed to paying a salary rate cap of 22% of salary, to include current service costs and a portion of the unfunded PERS liability; and

**WHEREAS**, the Alaska Municipal League was a major player in the passage of HB 385, which was the Governor's proposal to deposit \$3 billion into the PERS/TRS fund; and

**WHEREAS**, municipalities knew full well that acceptance of HB 385 would mean municipalities would pay an additional \$2.5 billion due to the change of the amortization period and the extension of nine years; and

**WHEREAS**, the ARM Board, as of September 2014, voted to approve 2016 contribution rates of 27.19% for PERS, down from 31.90% for 2015; and

**WHEREAS**, municipalities will be realizing an 86% total cost increase while the state is saving \$1.4 billion in "on-behalf" PERS contributions; and

**WHEREAS**, municipalities additionally must pay termination costs of a department, group or classification of employees that terminates participation under AS 39.35.625 to include the cost of a study and the payment of the past service cost, into the plan each payroll period until the past service liability of the plan is extinguished (approximately 25 years); and

**WHEREAS**, municipalities are also obligated to pay if their salary floor drops below the 2008 floor (the amount of their salary base when SB 125 was passed); and

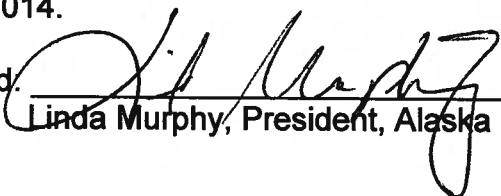
**WHEREAS**, with increasing costs to municipalities, reduced funding from the State and the Federal government, municipalities find themselves in a difficult position of not being able to reduce their workforce, as it will trigger a termination study and/or drop the municipality below the 2008 floor; and

**WHEREAS**, this hampers small municipalities the most, as they have only one person that may belong to a "department, group or classification;" and

**WHEREAS**, the State charges 12% interest on unpaid termination costs or below the floor costs, leaving many small communities facing bills that they will never be able to pay.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska Municipal League requests that the State honor their commitment to non-state PERS employers which caps their past and present service costs at 22% of salary; and that the State continue to work with AML to find a solution to the onerous termination study and below the floor costs

**PASSED AND APPROVED** by the Alaska Municipal League on this 21<sup>st</sup> day of November, 2014.

Signed:   
Linda Murphy, President, Alaska Municipal League

Attest:   
Kathie Wasserman, Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League



## **ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE**

### **RESOLUTION #2015-03**

#### **A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THAT THE LEGISLATURE FUND THE SENIOR CITIZEN'S/DISABLED VETERAN'S PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION AS REQUIRED IN AS 29.45.030(g) OR REPEAL THE MANDATE, EXCLUDING THE VALUE FROM THE DETERMINATION UNDER AS 14.17.510, AND GIVE CONTROL TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS FOR THOSE DECISIONS**

**WHEREAS**, in the 1980s, the State of Alaska imposed a mandate that required all municipalities that levy a property tax, to exempt the first \$150,000 value of primary homes belonging to seniors and disabled vets, from that property tax; and

**WHEREAS**, property tax exemptions raise the property tax liability to those individuals who do not receive the benefits of those exemptions; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of Alaska also passed law in statute that requires the State to reimburse municipalities for those exemptions; and

**WHEREAS**, not long after passage, the State of Alaska felt they could no longer reimburse municipalities; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of Alaska, however, did not relax the mandate requiring municipalities to continue to exempt; and

**WHEREAS**, we feel that municipalities know best what their financial situation is; and

**WHEREAS**, municipalities are better equipped to dictate exemptions that fall under their purview; and

**WHEREAS**, municipalities can write their own ordinances about whom they exempt and how much; and

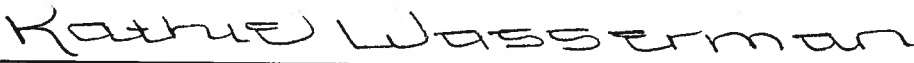
**WHEREAS**, while Revenue Sharing provided to 164 municipalities has decreased to \$52 million per year, the Senior Citizen's/Disabled Veteran's Property Tax exemption is now costing the 18 municipalities that levy a property tax, a total of over \$59 million per year; and

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska Municipal League requests that the Alaska State Legislature fund the Senior Citizen's/Disabled Veteran's Property Tax exemption as required in AS 29.45.030(g) or repeal the mandate, excluding the value

from the determination under AS 14.17.510, and give control to local governments for those decisions.

**PASSED AND APPROVED** by the Alaska Municipal League on this 21<sup>st</sup> day of November, 2014.

Signed:   
Linda Murphy, President, Alaska Municipal League

Attest:   
Kathie Wasserman, Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League



## **ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE**

### **RESOLUTION #2015-04**

#### **A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE STATE'S EFFORT TO BUILD A LARGE DIAMETER GAS PIPELINE TO TIDEWATER FOR THE PURPOSE OF LARGE SCALE GAS EXPORTS AND THE DISPERSION OF LOW COST ENERGY THROUGHOUT THE STATE**

**WHEREAS**, the Alaska Municipal League is grateful for the long hours Legislators have put into planning a gas pipeline; and

**WHEREAS**, the Alaska Municipal League would like to encourage the Legislature to proactively determine how to best distribute energy outside the pipeline corridor to as many Alaskans, as possible; and

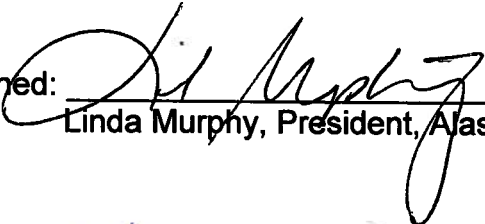
**WHEREAS**, SB 138 requires the Alaska Energy Authority to consult with the Alaska Gasline Development Corporation, the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority, and the Department of Revenue to create and implement a plan for developing infrastructure to deliver more affordable energy to areas of the state that are not expected to have direct access to a North Slope natural gas pipeline; and

**WHEREAS**, we request that the Alaska State Legislature be prepared to make necessary infrastructure investments early in the project to ensure appropriate ports, networks, transportation hubs, and/or distribution systems are in place; and

**WHEREAS**, an Alaska Natural Gas Pipeline must be designed and constructed in a manner that will ensure maximum distribution of energy resources and benefits to all Alaskan communities.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska Municipal League supports the State's effort to build a large diameter gas pipeline to tidewater for the purpose of large scale gas exports and the dispersion of low cost energy throughout the state.

**PASSED AND APPROVED** by the Alaska Municipal League on this 21<sup>st</sup> day of November, 2014.

Signed:   
Linda Murphy, President, Alaska Municipal League

Attest:   
Kathie Wasserman, Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League





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## ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE

### RESOLUTION #2015-05

#### A RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING AN AMENDMENT TO AS 35.30.010 PROVIDING FOR STRONGER AUTHORITY BY LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITIES FOR PUBLIC PROJECTS

**WHEREAS**, Alaska Statute 35.30.010 – Review and Approval by Local Planning Authorities, requires the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities to obtain approval from local planning authorities before commencing construction of a public project, such as a highway improvement; and

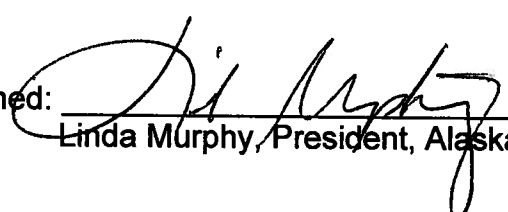
**WHEREAS**, “before commencing construction” of a public project, allows the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities to advance a public project without local planning authority until the project plan is final and ready for construction, which is at a point of no return for the department and gives little meaning to the statute; and

**WHEREAS**, the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities needs to obtain local planning review and approval for public projects before the final design or alternative is approved and accepted by the department, to meet the intent of the state.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska Municipal League recommends an amendment to AS 35.30.010 providing for stronger authority by local planning authorities, by deleting, “before commencing construction” and by inserting, “before plans are approved by the department and an approved alternative is accepted by the department.”

**PASSED AND APPROVED** by the Alaska Municipal League on this 21<sup>st</sup> day of November, 2014.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

  
Linda Murphy, President, Alaska Municipal League

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_

  
Kathie Wasserman, Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League



## ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE

### RESOLUTION #2015-06

#### A RESOLUTION OF THE ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE SUPPORTING INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION (IJC) INVOLVEMENT IN THE ALASKA AND BRITISH COLUMBIA TRANSBOUNDARY REGION

**WHEREAS**, the transboundary rivers of Northwest British Columbia and Southeast Alaska have tremendous unique economic, ecological, cultural and recreational value; and

**WHEREAS**, pristine waters and intact habitats make protecting productive and healthy wild salmon populations throughout these transboundary river systems a priority; and

**WHEREAS**, commercial mining in British Columbia (BC) is experiencing unprecedented expansion within the headwaters of the Taku, Stikine and Unuk rivers; and

**WHEREAS**, proposed mines include Tulsequah Chief in the Taku watershed; Galore Creek, Red Christ and Schaft Creek in the Stikine watershed; and the KerrSulphuretsMitchell (KSM) project in the headwaters of the Unuk River; and

**WHEREAS**, large-scale mining and energy development could have significant adverse effects on the environment and fisheries within the transboundary region; and

**WHEREAS**, an unprecedented level of water treatment and inadequate tailings containments could pose the threat of acid mine drainage for centuries, if not in perpetuity; and

**WHEREAS**, federal, provincial, environmental assessment processes should address the cumulative impacts of industrial development; and

**WHEREAS**, commercial fishermen, subsistence and recreational users, elected leaders, local communities and Native tribes on both sides of the Alaska/Canadian border have raised concerns about the pace and scope of the proposed industrial development in the headwaters of transboundary river systems and the potential for harm to water quality, fish and wildlife, and the socioeconomic sustainability of local communities within the region; and

**WHEREAS**, the Boundary Waters Treaty states, "waters flowing across the boundary shall not be polluted on either side to the injury of health or property on the other" and

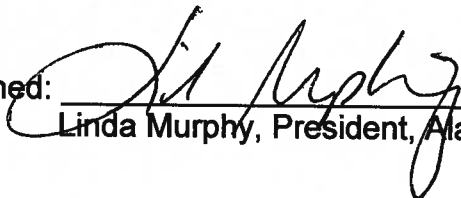
provides a mechanism to address transboundary river concerns known as the International Joint Commission.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska Municipal League strongly urges the United States government to work with the government of Canada to refer the issue of transboundary development in the Alaska and British Columbia region to the International Joint Commission and to utilize any and all powers under the Boundary Waters Treaty to ensure that Alaska resources are not harmed by upstream development in BC; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the concerns of affected local communities, individuals and user groups downstream from these projects must be integral to transboundary watershed development decision making and further urge greater opportunity for these voices to be heard; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that affected communities and governments be consulted with and represented in policy discussions related to impacts to these watersheds.

**PASSED AND APPROVED** by the Alaska Municipal League on this 21<sup>st</sup> day of November, 2014.

Signed:   
Linda Murphy, President, Alaska Municipal League

Attest:   
Kathie Wasserman, Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League