Alaska Municipal League

2009 Resolutions

Approved by AML Membership — November 2008
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ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE
RESOLUTION #2009-01


WHEREAS, the Alaska Municipal League is charged with leading the members in developing statewide policy for the member municipalities; and

WHEREAS, Section 511 of the Tax Increase Prevention and Reconciliation Act of 2006 (Public Law 109-222) will require boroughs, cities and states to withhold 3% of payments from nearly all vendors and contractors for federal income and tax purposes; and

WHEREAS, this federal income tax withholding provision will dampen competitive bidding, increase the cost of public sector procurement, as well as the burden on city and borough taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, while cities and boroughs do not fall under this mandate yet, it will most probably fall under it in the next few years; and

WHEREAS, complying with this law will be onerous for cities and boroughs, their vendors and their contractors; and

WHEREAS, Section 511 will not accomplish its stated goal of closing the budget gap.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League is opposed to Section 511 of the Tax Increase Prevention and Reconciliation Act of 2006 and supports passage of S.777 and H.R.1023 and encourages the Governor and Legislature to work to support passage of these acts.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Alaska Municipal League on this 14th day of November, 2008.

Signed:  [Signature]
Denise Michels, President, Alaska Municipal League

Attest:  [Signature]
Kathie Wasserman, Executive Director, Alaska Municipal

Member of the National League of Cities and the National Association of Counties
ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE
RESOLUTION #2009-02

A RESOLUTION URGING THE GOVERNOR’S ADMINISTRATION AND THE ALASKA LEGISLATURE TO RE-ESTABLISH THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND REGIONAL AFFAIRS AS A CABINET LEVEL DEPARTMENT OF STATE GOVERNMENT

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska relies on healthy, functional communities for the delivery of vital services and for maintaining social and economic stability at the local and regional levels; and

WHEREAS, Alaska communities face unprecedented challenges underscored by high energy prices and related costs; and

WHEREAS, for 27 years, the Department of Community and Regional Affairs provided direct services and assistance to urban and rural communities throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Community and Regional Affairs was a vital source of knowledge on community issues and conditions; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Community and Regional Affairs provided communities a “seat at the table” and a distinct voice in the Governor’s cabinet; and

WHEREAS, the importance of maintaining healthy, functional communities is a crucial component in the formulation of state policies across a wide range of topics and activities.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Governor’s Administration and the Alaska Legislature are urged to re-establish the Alaska Department of Community and Regional Affairs to provide cabinet-level standing for vital community, regional and rural issues and concerns.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Alaska Municipal League on this 14th day of November, 2008.

Signed: Denise Michels, President, Alaska Municipal League

Attest: Kathie Wasserman, Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League
ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE
RESOLUTION #2009-03

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF LEGISLATION REQUIRING MANDATORY REAL ESTATE DISCLOSURE.

WHEREAS, Borough assessors are bound by AS 29.45.110 to assess real property at its full and true value; and

WHEREAS, full and true value is the estimated price that a property would bring in an open market and under prevailing market conditions in a sale between a willing buyer and a willing seller; and

WHEREAS, a growing number of taxpayers are becoming disenchanted with assessment values and are calling for better mechanics of the assessing process; and

WHEREAS, correct data is imperative in the ability to arrive at true and equitable assessments; and

WHEREAS, data is currently obtained from requests for information through questionnaire mailers in many jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, this process is often incomplete and erroneous, and not a true reflection of actual market values; and

WHEREAS, Mandatory Real Estate Sales Disclosure of Sales Price would greatly aid and enhance accuracy within assessing departments statewide; and

WHEREAS, 35 states in the U.S. currently require mandatory sales disclosure.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League urges the 26th Alaska State Legislature to enact legislation requiring mandatory real estate sales disclosure.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Alaska Municipal League on this 14th day of November, 2008.

Signed: 
Denise Michels, President, Alaska Municipal League

Attest: Kathie Wasserman, Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League
ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE
RESOLUTION #2009-04

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR TO INCLUDE AN ADDITIONAL $15 MILLION IN THE PROPOSED FY2010 BUDGET FOR COMMUNITY REVENUE SHARING, BRINGING THE PROGRAM TO A MINIMUM FUNDING LEVEL OF $75 MILLION AS THE STATE RAMPS UP TO 6% OF NATURAL RESOURCE REVENUES, ADJUSTED ANNUALLY FOR INFLATION.

WHEREAS, the Alaska Municipal League commends the Governor and the Legislature for approving SB 72; and

WHEREAS, SB 72 establishes the Community Revenue Sharing fund which calls for a $60 million Revenue Sharing program; and

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska is experiencing budget surpluses while costs of providing local government services continues to escalate dramatically; and

WHEREAS, in 1985, annual Revenue Sharing was $141 million at a time when the price of oil was about $20 per barrel; and

WHEREAS, local governments and communities need additional state support when inflation increases, population increases and increasing energy costs are taken into consideration.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League request the Governor include an additional $15 million in her proposed FY2010 budget for Community Revenue Sharing, bringing the program to a funding level of $75 million, adjusted annually for inflation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League request the Governor introduce legislation amending SB 72 and the Community Revenue Sharing fund so it will generate an annual revenue sharing fund of $75 million, adjusted annually for inflation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State of Alaska is urged to adopt a sustainable revenue sharing program by annually appropriating 6% of natural resource revenues, with no cap, to municipalities; with a base amount of $250,000 to all boroughs, $75,000 to all cities, and $25,000 to unincorporated communities, with the remainder to be allocated on a per capita basis.

AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League request the Governor include an annual revenue sharing fund of $75 million in the 10-year Fiscal Plan contemplated by HB 125.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Alaska Municipal League on this 14th day of November, 2008.

Signed: Denise Michels, President, Alaska Municipal League

Attest: Kathie Wasserman, Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League

Member of the National League of Cities and the National Association of Counties
ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE
RESOLUTION #2009-06

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE IMMEDIATE BAN RELATING TO THE RETAIL SALE OR DISTRIBUTION OF TOY-LIKE NOVELTY LIGHTERS WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF THE STATE OF ALASKA.

WHEREAS, juvenile fire setting has been identified as the fastest growing fire threat in the United States; and

WHEREAS, novelty lighters have features that are attractive to children; and

WHEREAS, the Consumer Product Safety Commission has recalled thousands of novelty lighters since 1996 due to their danger to the public safety; and

WHEREAS, the National Fire Protection Association, Western Fire Chief's Association, National Association of State Fire Marshals, along with many other state and national public safety agencies have supported the prohibition of the sale and distribution of novelty lighters; and

WHEREAS, the function of a lighter can be achieved without the novelty of visual effects, flashing lights, musical sounds or toy-like designs.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League does encourage and support the Department of Public Safety, Office of the State Fire Marshal, as provided within the authority of Alaska Statute 18.70.10 to immediately ban the sale and distribution of novelty lighters within the State of Alaska.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Alaska Municipal League on this 14th day of November, 2008.

Signed:
Denise Michelle, President, Alaska Municipal League

Attest:
Kathie Wasserman, Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League

Member of the National League of Cities and the National Association of Counties
ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE
RESOLUTION #2009-07

A RESOLUTION OF THE ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE SUPPORTING THE EXEMPTION OF STATE DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS FOR MUNICIPAL OFFICERS AND CANDIDATES.

WHEREAS, State Statute 39.50, effective in 2008, requires financial business and conflict of interest reporting, available on the state web site, for all state and municipal officials, candidates, board members and commission members and their spouses, domestic partners and dependent children; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Municipal League is NOT opposed to the filing of financial business and conflict of interest reports; but does oppose web posting of that information from spouses, domestic partners and dependent children; and

WHEREAS, under AS 39.50, mayors, council members, assembly members, school board members, city and borough managers, planning and zoning commissioners, and elected utility board members are all required to file these public conflict of interest reports; and

WHEREAS, these new rules require sources of income over $1,000, as well as the amount of the income, thereby requiring all business owners to list how much money his/her business makes and to report such income as salary, social security, interest, dividends, rental income and retirement money (IRAs, etc.); and

WHEREAS, this statute also invades the privacy of those people doing business with the candidate or municipal official; and

WHEREAS, this information is to be posted on the internet, local municipal officials are concerned with identity theft and invasion of privacy; and

WHEREAS, these new rulings have severely limited those people willing to serve their local municipalities, it will become more and more difficult to find residents to step up to the plate for positions that hold little or no financial gain, yet can be contentious, time consuming and difficult, at best; and

WHEREAS, close to half of Alaska’s municipalities have voted to be exempt from this state disclosure requirement and many placed the question on the ballot during this last election; and

WHEREAS, most municipalities already have disclosure regulations in place that are available upon request at the Borough or City Hall.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League supports the automatic exemption of all Alaska municipalities from the State of Alaska Financial Disclosure rule, to be replaced by local financial disclosure forms to be available to all of the public upon request rather than posted on the internet.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League requests the state create filing forms and regulations for public official financial disclosure reports that separate state officials, local officials and lobbyists from one another.

AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League fears that the requirement of state disclosure laws will drastically reduce the availability of qualified persons willing to serve in local government.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Alaska Municipal League on this 14th day of November, 2008.

Signed: 

[Signature]

Denise Michels, President, Alaska Municipal League

Attest: 

[Signature]

Kathie Wasserman, Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League
ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE
RESOLUTION #2009-08

A RESOLUTION OF THE ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE URGING THE ALASKA STATE
LEGISLATURE IN 2009, TO MODIFY, BASED ON SCIENCE, THE STANDARDS
GOVERNING THE DISCHARGE OF CRUISE SHIP WASTEWATER SUCH THAT THOSE
STANDARDS WILL CONTINUE TO PROTECT AQUATIC LIFE AND THE ENVIRONMENT;
AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, during the 1990s, the size and number of cruise ships visiting Alaska coastal
communities grew dramatically and became an increasingly important component of the local
and regional economies; and

WHEREAS, in 1999, the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, U.S. Coast Guard,
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, members of the Southeast Conference, representatives
of the cruise ship industry, and local concerned citizens formed a group to explore ways to
improve environmental standards for the cruise ship industry in Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Cruise Ship Initiative (ACSI) group was created in 2000 to 1). Identify
waste streams from cruise ships; 2). Develop pollution prevention and waste management
solutions; 3). Assess and verify compliance with volunteer wastewater sampling; and 4). Keep
the Alaska public informed; and

WHEREAS, in late 2000, the ACSI commissioned a Science Advisory Panel with expertise in
oceanography, bacteriology, chemistry, aquatic and human toxicology, marine biology, ecology
and vessel engineering to address issues concerning treatment, discharge, dispersion, fate, and
effects of wastewaters produced by commercial cruise ships; and

WHEREAS, the work of the groups noted above led to the enactment of laws (AS 46.03.460 –
AS 46.06.490) by the Alaska Legislature in 2001 establishing wastewater discharge standards
for cruise ships and creating the Commercial Passenger Vessel Environmental Compliance
Program; and

WHEREAS, in 2002, the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation adopted
regulations (18 AAC 69) to implement and interpret the laws enacted by the Legislature in 2001;
and

WHEREAS, in 2004, the Alaska Legislature refined laws enacted in 2001 (AS 46.03.460 – AS
46.06.490); and

WHEREAS, in 2006, following a two-year rule-making effort, the Alaska Department of
Environmental Conservation adopted regulations to interpret and implement the 2004 statutory
changes; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska cruise ship industry has invested more than $200 million to install some
of the most advanced wastewater treatment systems in the world; and

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WHEREAS, in 2006, following the adoption of regulations by the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, Alaska voters approved an initiative further governing the operation and regulation of large cruise ships; and

WHEREAS, in March 2008, as a major step toward fulfilling the terms of the 2006 initiative, the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation issued the first ever general permit for wastewater discharge from large cruise ships operating in Alaska waters; and

WHEREAS, the standards imposed on cruise ships are far in excess of those imposed on shore-based municipal wastewater facilities, as was recognized in the Department of Environmental Conservation press release announcing the March 2008 permit, which stated:

The majority of large cruise ships operating in Alaska have advanced wastewater treatment systems that produce a very high quality discharge – much higher, for example, than shore-based municipal sewage treatment systems. Even so, cruise ship discharges are expected to have trouble meeting water quality standards for four parameters – ammonia, copper, nickel and zinc; and

WHEREAS, recognizing that it is currently unfeasible or impractical to meet discharge standards for the ammonia, copper, nickel and zinc parameters, the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation applied more lenient standards during the 2008 and 2009 seasons and postponed implementation of the stricter standards until the 2010 season; and

WHEREAS, the point-of-release standards could mean that beginning in 2010, cruise ships will have to defer all discharges until they are out of Alaska waters; and

WHEREAS, compelling cruise ships to postpone discharge of wastewater until outside Alaska waters will likely shorten the time cruise ships are in port and result in fewer ports of call, which will negatively impact Alaskan businesses.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League urges the Alaska State Legislature in 2009, to modify, based on science, the standards governing the discharge of cruise ship wastewater such that those standards governing the discharge of cruise ship wastewater such that those standards will continue to protect aquatic life and the environment.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League requests that this resolution becomes effective immediately upon adoption by the State Legislature.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Alaska Municipal League on this 14th day of November, 2008.

Signed: Denise Michels, President, Alaska Municipal League

Attest: Kathie Wasserman, Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League
ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE
RESOLUTION #2009-09

A RESOLUTION OF THE ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE ADVOCATING FOR THE RECONSIDERATION OF THE U.S. CENSUS BUREAU’S AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY DATA GATHERING METHODOLOGY.

WHEREAS, the Alaska Municipal League is tasked with promoting strong economies, healthy communities and a quality environment in Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the socioeconomic health of communities in Alaska is often evaluated by statistical reports produced by government agencies such as the U.S. Census Bureau; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Municipal League is committed to ensuring every resident is counted; and

WHEREAS, the collection and availability of accurate data is important to understanding regional and local socioeconomic conditions; and

WHEREAS, many important economic and political decisions are based on socioeconomic information gathered for Alaskan communities; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Census Bureau has discontinued the Decennial Long-form for the 2010 Census and implemented the American Community Survey, an annual survey for collecting community demographic and economic information; and

WHEREAS, the American Community Survey’s methodology uses a significantly reduced sample size than the Decennial Long-form’s methodology, resulting in an overall reduction in data reliability and longitudinal comparability; and

WHEREAS, rural Alaskan communities vary widely in socioeconomic characteristics and smaller sample sizes could distort American Community Survey findings; and

WHEREAS, current American Community Survey methodology calls for selection of sample participants using street addresses and land-based phone lines, and many residents of rural Alaskan communities have neither, excluding many rural Alaskan residents from the population considered for sample selection.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League requests that the U.S. Census Bureau increase American Community Survey sample sizes to increase data reliability and ensure comparability with 2000 U.S. Census Decennial Long-form data; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal league requests that the U.S. Census Bureau give special consideration to data gathering in small rural communities to ensure accurate representation of the socioeconomic characteristics of those communities in the Census data.

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AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League appeals to local organizations and groups to partner together to achieve an accurate and complete count throughout Alaska.

AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League encourages residents to participate in Census promotional events and initiatives that will raise the overall awareness of the 2010 Census and increase participation among all populations.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Alaska Municipal League on this 14th day of November, 2008.

Signed: [Signature]
Denise Michels, President, Alaska Municipal League

Attest: [Signature]
Kathie Wasserman, Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League
ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE
RESOLUTION #2009-11

A RESOLUTION URGING THE GOVERNOR AND THE ALASKA LEGISLATURE TO DEVELOP THE STATE'S RENEWABLE ENERGY RESOURCES AND CONTINUE TO EXPAND PROGRAMS THAT INCREASE END-USE CONSERVATION AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY.

WHEREAS, there has been an increase in the volatility of the price for crude oil; and

WHEREAS, the resulting uncertainty has caused great concern among Alaska's residents, businesses and public entities; and

WHEREAS, fuel costs for space heating and electricity production are excessively high throughout Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the future sustainability of communities and the state as a whole depends upon the development of renewable energy resources, increasing the efficient use of energy, and increasing the widespread use of conservation measures; and

WHEREAS, Alaska is blessed with abundant renewable energy resources including wind, geothermal, hydroelectric, biomass, solar and in-water (tidal, wave, river) resources; and

WHEREAS, substantial energy savings for households, businesses and local governments will result from new and retrofitted energy-efficient buildings, appliances and heating systems; and

WHEREAS, the state's and the nation's energy security is enhanced to the extent that imported fossil fuel is replaced with renewable energy sources and energy conservation; and

WHEREAS, it is both timely and urgent to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels; and

WHEREAS, it is in the state's ability to implement and expand renewable energy and energy conservation programs.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League urges the Governor and the Alaska Legislature to:

- Fully fund the Home Energy Rebate Program and expand the program to include business and industry;
- Supplement funding for the Low Income Home Weatherization Program;
- Provide funding assistance to expand the percentage of energy produced in the state from renewable and alternative sources, particularly in high-cost regions;
- Create funding incentives for utilities to develop alternative resources;
- Create a regulatory environment which will encourage development of alternative and renewable energy;
- Provide funding assistance to all new and retrofitted public buildings to meet certified energy efficiency standards; and
- Coordinate regional energy planning to promote efficiencies.

Member of the National League of Cities and the National Association of Counties
PASSED AND APPROVED by the Alaska Municipal League on this 14th day of November, 2008.

Signed: [Signature]
Denise Michels, President, Alaska Municipal League

Attest: [Signature]
Kathie Wasserman, Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League
ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE
RESOLUTION #2009-12

A RESOLUTION URGING THE GOVERNOR AND THE ALASKA LEGISLATURE TO
CAPITALIZE STABLE LONG-TERM TRANSPORTATION FUNDING FOR ALASKA

WHEREAS, Alaska's transportation system has fallen far behind the needs of Alaska for cost effective transportation which allows economic growth and the safe cost-effective movement of people, goods and services; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Highway System, the Alaska Marine Highway System, Alaska airports, Alaska ports and harbors and Alaska's local roads, all need several years of significant funding for infrastructure improvement, upgrade and expansion; and

WHEREAS, the general appropriation process has resulted in significant underfunding of transportation infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the economic future of Alaska is highly dependent upon a quality, cost-effective transportation system; and

WHEREAS, the development of Alaska transportation infrastructure is dependent upon a steady and reliable stream of revenue; and

WHEREAS, the development of an energy policy that works for Alaska requires a quality transportation system in order to be successful; and

WHEREAS, estimates of annual funding needs for transportation infrastructure improvements, upgrades and expansions exceed $300 million per year; and

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska is in a position to seriously consider long-term transportation financing at this moment in history.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League urges the Governor and the Alaska Legislature to establish a Transportation Trust Fund for Alaska or other suitable and sustainable funding mechanisms that generate at least $300 million annually to accomplish the following purposes:

• Generate investment earnings to develop transportation infrastructure in Alaska.
• Improve, upgrade and expand State of Alaska roads and highways.
• Improve, upgrade and expand the Alaska Marine Highway System.
• Improve, upgrade and expand the airports in Alaska.
• Improve, upgrade and expand Alaska's ports and harbors.
• Provide regular funding to Alaska's communities to improve, upgrade and expand public transit and local roads built to local road standards.

AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that not less than 15-percent of the total funding will be allocated to each of the five programs each year (roads and highways, Alaska Marine Highway System, airports, ports and harbors, public transit and local roads).

Member of the National League of Cities and the National Association of Counties
PASSED AND APPROVED by the Alaska Municipal League on this 14th day of November, 2008.

Signed: [Signature]
Denise Michels, President, Alaska Municipal League

Attest: [Signature]
Kathie Wasserman, Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League
ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE
RESOLUTION #2009-13

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING AS 14.56.355: PUBLIC LIBRARY CONSTRUCTION AND MAJOR EXPANSION GRANTS AND RECOMMENDING FULL APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS TO IMPLEMENT THE PROGRAM.

WHEREAS, Alaska's first formal programs relating to public library construction was passed in 1970; and

WHEREAS, AS 14.56.350 outlined a public library construction program for rural areas that required a minimum 10% match of cash, land, service or "other items acceptable to the division of state libraries."; and

WHEREAS, AS 14.56.350 outlined a public library construction program that allowed larger communities to apply for funding with an expected 40% match; and

WHEREAS, a significant number of public libraries (50) were built between 1970 and 1998 utilizing federal and state library construction grant programs; and

WHEREAS, the rural and urban Public Library Construction Grant program for public library construction was repealed in 1998; and

WHEREAS, the enactment of the federal Library Technology and Services Act (LSTA) specifically excluded library construction from grant consideration; and

WHEREAS, a 2004 Building Needs Assessment conducted by the Alaska State Library identified 22 communities that indicated a need for a new library building; and

WHEREAS, in 2008, eight more communities were added to the list; and

WHEREAS, a new public library construction grant program was proposed in Senate Bill 119 during the 25th session of the Alaska Legislature; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 119 was passed into law on June 8, 2008; and

WHEREAS, AS 14.56.355 Library construction and major expansion matching grant program states:

There is established in the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development, a matching grant program for library construction and major expansion.

  a) A person in charge of construction or major expansion of an eligible library may apply to the department for a matching grant under regulations adopted by the department.
b) Subject to appropriation, the department shall award not more than 50% of the total proposed grant project costs to an eligible applicant.

c) The department shall establish regulations to implement this section and the eligibility standards under AS 14.56.356. The regulations must include consideration for and establishment of an eligibility priority for an application that is submitted by a community that does not have a public library described in AS 14.56.356(a)(2).

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League supports the Public Library Construction and Major Expansion Grant program and urges the Governor and the Alaska Legislature to appropriate funds in the FY2010 budget to implement the grant program.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Alaska Municipal League on this 14th day of November, 2008.

Signed: Denise Michels, President, Alaska Municipal League

Attest: Kathie Wasserman, Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League
ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE
RESOLUTION #2009-14

A RESOLUTION URGING THE GOVERNOR AND THE ALASKA LEGISLATURE TO EXPAND THE POWER COST EQUALIZATION PROGRAM TO INCLUDE MUNICIPAL FACILITIES, SCHOOLS, HEALTH CLINICS, AND COMMERCIAL ENTERPRISES NOT ELIGIBLE UNDER EXISTING LAW.

WHEREAS, energy costs throughout Alaska are creating significant financial burdens for many residents; and

WHEREAS, communities purchase fuel at a contract price that remains fixed even when prices fall; and

WHEREAS, rural municipalities, schools, health clinics and commercial enterprises are facing increasing difficulty meeting energy expenses; and

WHEREAS, the high cost of fuel for space heating and electricity generation threatens the stability of rural communities; and

WHEREAS, communities that pay in excess of the average kilowatt-hour cost of Juneau, Anchorage, and Fairbanks should be eligible for funding; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Legislature amended the Power Cost Equalization Program during the 2008 Special Session by raising the eligibility ceiling to $1.00 per kilowatt-hour for one year; and

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska administers the Power Cost Equalization Program to provide residents relief from burdensome fuel costs, thereby providing for community stability and economic relief.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League urges the Governor and the Alaska Legislature to expand the Power Cost Equalization Program to include municipal facilities, schools, health clinics, and commercial enterprises with an appropriate increase in the 70 KwH per capita credit used to calculate the subsidy, and provide comprehensive assistance to eligible communities.

AND, BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League believes that the expanded PCE program should provide short-term relief from burdensome energy costs and be phased out as the cost of energy is reduced.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Alaska Municipal League on this 14th day of November, 2008.

Signed: ________________________________________
Denise Michels, President, Alaska Municipal League

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

Member of the National League of Cities and the National Association of Counties
ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE
RESOLUTION #2009-15

A RESOLUTION OF THE ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE URGING THE GOVERNOR AND
LEGISLATURE TO GET INVOLVED IN THE EPA GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS
REGULATORY EFFORTS

WHEREAS, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has been obligated by the U.S.
Supreme Court to regulate greenhouse gases in order to protect the public health and welfare; and

WHEREAS, Alaska, and the Arctic in particular, is the recipient of the global impact of
greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, it appears certain that the EPA will move forward with some form of regulation; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Conference of Mayors has adopted a letter which will be sent to the
EPA prior to November 28, 2008.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Alaska Municipal League urges the Legislature
and the Governor to participate in the process of developing regulatory effort so the best interest
of the people of Alaska can be represented and included in the future regulations.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Alaska Municipal League on this 14th day of November,
2008.

Signed: ____________________________
Denise Michels, President, Alaska Municipal League

Attest: ____________________________
Kathie Wasserman, Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League
November 21, 2008

Environmental Protection Agency
Air & Radiation Docket & Information Center
Mail code: 2822T
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20460

RE: Proposed Rule making on Regulation of Greenhouse Gas Emissions

To: Whom It May Concern,

By all accounts, Alaska is unique and experiences the effects of climate change at twice the rate of change as elsewhere in the world. The continuing, paramount question is whether climate change is the result of man-made causes, as stated by the United Nations’ IPCC (2007) report (and repeated in numerous journals, papers and media reports) or whether it is the result of normal cyclical changes. Individually, Alaska’s Mayors have divergent views about the weight that should be attributed to the causes of global climate change, but they acknowledge that climate change is occurring and that more extensive regulation at all levels of government is highly likely.

The Alaska Conference of Mayors recognizes that the Supreme Court has concluded that greenhouse gases are air pollutants and therefore are subject to regulation by the Environmental Protection Agency (Massachusetts v. EPA). Further, the EPA can avoid taking regulatory action only if it determines that greenhouse gas emissions do not contribute to climate change or if it provides some reasonable explanation as to why it cannot or will not exercise its discretion to determine whether they do.

The Alaska Conference of Mayors recognizes the topic of anthropogenic global warming is not a simple discussion, but insists that rule-making decisions must include credible, variant views, such as those reflected by the following comments of Dr. Syun-Ichi Akasofu, Director of the International Arctic Research Center at the University of Alaska/Fairbanks:

"Certainly, global warming is in progress. However, in spite of their claim, not even the International Panel of Climate Change (IPCC) presents definite scientific proof that “most” of the present warming is caused by the greenhouse effect, as stated in their summary report. It is simply an assumption. Since the physics of the greenhouse effect of CO2 is well known, and since they thought that no other forcing function is likely to be the cause, the IPCC hypothesized that the warming from about 1900 was caused by it. They assembled a large number of scientists, mostly meteorologists and physicists (not necessarily climatologists who are really needed in climate research) and tried to prove their hypothesis based on supercomputer models. They have continued to do so, in spite of new evidence from some ice core data, which shows that the temperature rises tend to precede CO2 rises by about 1,000 years, suggesting that the hypothesized relationship between the temperature and CO2 is reversed, namely that some of the past temperature rises may be the cause of CO2 rises. It is very unfortunate that the hypothesis has somehow become ‘fact.’"
The Alaska Conference of Mayors celebrates the uniqueness of Alaska, its geography, varied environments and people. Any comprehensive regulation at the federal level must take into account the economic and social well-being of this and future generations of Alaskans, embodied in the ideals and requirements set forth in Alaska’s Constitution. In addition, the Alaska Conference of Mayors strongly urges a fundamental review of the EPA regulatory scheme to account for potentially overlapping, burdensome or conflicting requirements in Alaska.

The Alaska Conference of Mayors, most of whom represent indigenous populations, invokes the requirement of consultation and additionally, strongly urges that rule-making that affects Alaska has the requirement for having Alaskan representation and that any federal oversight be required to be located in Alaska.

The Alaska Conference of Mayors further recognizes that a statewide comprehensive plan for energy and the environment would help our State to move forward and commits to working with federal and state officials toward that effort. Any regulations put in place by EPA must account for the fact that development and manufacturing are necessary to spur innovation in adapting to climate change and developing new sources of energy.

The Alaska Conference of Mayors requests to be included on ALL notices related to regulation of greenhouse gas emissions. These should be directed to the following address:

Alaska Conference of Mayors
217 2nd Street, Suite 200
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Sincerely,

Mayor Shirley Marquardt
President, Alaska Conference of Mayor
Alaska Municipal League
Member Municipalities

Adak
Akhiok
Akutan
Alakanuk
Aleknagik
Aleutians East Borough
Allakaket
Ambluer
Anchorage, Municipality of
Anderson
Angoon
Aniak
Anvik
Atka
Atqasuk
Barrow
Bethel
Bettles
Brevig Mission
Bristol Bay Borough
Buckland
Chefornak
Chevak
Chignik
Chuathbaluk
Clark's Point
Coffman Cove
Cold Bay
Cordova
Craig
Delta Junction
Denali Borough
Dillingham
Diomede
Eagle
Eek
Egegik
Ekwox
Elim
Emmonak
Fairbanks
Fairbanks North Star Borough
False Pass
Fort Yukon
Galen
Gambell
Golovin
Goodnews Bay
Grayling
Gustavus
Haines Borough
Holy Cross
Homer
Hoonah
Houston
Hughes
Huslia
Juneau, City & Borough of
Kachemak
Kake
Kaktovik
Kaltag
Kasaan
Kenai
Kenai Peninsula Borough
Ketchikan
Ketchikan Gateway Borough
King Cove
Kivalina
Kobuk
Kodiak
Kodiak Island Borough
Kotzebue
Koyuk
Koyukuk
Kwethluk
Lake & Peninsula Borough
Iliamna Bay
Lower Kalskag
Manokotak
Marshall
Matanuska-Susitna Borough
McGrath
Mekoryuk
Metlakatla Indian Community
Mountain Village
Napakiak
Napaskiak
Nenana
New Stuyahok
Newhalen
Nightmute
Nikolai
Nome
Noorvik
North Slope Borough
North Pole
Northwest Arctic Borough
Nuiqsut
Nulato
Nunamlqua
Nunapitchuk
Old Harbor
Ouzinkie
Palmer
Pelican
Petersburg
Pilot Point
Pilot Station
Platinum
Point Hope
Port Alexander
Port Heiden
Port Lions
Quinhagak
Ruby
Russian Mission
Saint George
Saint Mary's
Saint Michael
Saint Paul
Sand Point
Savoonga
Saxman
Scammon Bay
Selawik
Seldovia
Seward
Shageluk
Shishmaref
Sitka, City & Borough of
Skagway, Municipality of
Soldotna
Stebbins
Tanana
Teller
Tenakee Springs
Thorne Bay
Togiak
Toksook Bay
Unalakleet
Unalaska
Upper Kalskag
Valdez
Wainwright
Wales
Wasilla
White Mountain
Whittier
Wrangell, City & Borough of
Yakutat, City & Borough of