

Resolution of the Alaska Municipal League

Resolution #2022-05

A Resolution in support of more broadly defining “economic development” in Title 29 for Home Rule and General Law Local Governments

WHEREAS, The Alaska Municipal League’s (AML’s) Policy Statement on Economic Development includes supporting state responsiveness to local economic development planning, including local economic diversification and small business development strategies; and

WHEREAS, Economic development should be defined more broadly for purposes of municipal powers in AS 29 and for purposes of optional tax exemptions and/or deferrals, thereby allowing local governments to incentivize trades and businesses not only to make initial investments within municipalities, but to be able to incentivize maintaining current operations; and

WHEREAS, The COVID-19 public health emergency impacted many economic sectors, including small businesses and tourism-related businesses, resulting in many relief programs that were available both directly to businesses from the state and federal governments but also via pass-through grant programs from local governments; and

WHEREAS, Many local governments in Alaska are dependent upon tax revenue from small businesses and tourism in order to continue providing services to residents, and ensuring that these entities remain open and operating in Alaska is critical to the economic stability of a community; and

WHEREAS, Ensuring that existing industries remain in an area is as important for its economic health as attracting new industries to a municipality.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League supports and advocates for a broad definition of economic development in Title 29 to ensure that all local governments exercising such powers can ensure that trades and businesses that are critical components of their economy are incentivized to remain in Alaska.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE ON THE 17TH DAY OF NOVEMBER 2021

Signed: 

President, Alaska Municipal League

Attest: 

Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League