

RESOLUTION #2019-05

A resolution supporting increased investment in the Alaska Renewable Energy Fund, and continued support for existing State energy and energy efficiency programs.

WHEREAS, Alaska's high cost of energy creates a burden for Alaskans and for local governments, school districts and public facilities; and

WHEREAS, ensuring the safety and reliability of energy systems increases the security of Alaskan communities and the economy; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Municipal League has been consistent in its advocacy for the strategic development of energy resources, State programs that help to lower power and heating costs, and adequate long-term funding for energy investment; and

WHEREAS, the Renewable Energy Fund – established in 2008 by the Alaska State Legislature – is a good example of a program that, if funded, provides public investment in the development of qualifying and competitively selected renewable energy projects in Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Renewable Energy Fund provides benefits to Alaskans by assisting communities across the state to reduce and stabilize the cost of energy; and

WHEREAS, the program is designed to produce cost-effective renewable energy for heat and power to benefit Alaskans statewide, and ancillary benefits include job creation, leveraging local energy resources, and economic development; and

WHEREAS, from 2008 to 2015, appropriations totaling \$257 million were issued for Renewable Energy Fund projects, which was matched with hundreds of millions of dollars in funding from local sources to develop projects designed to reduce and stabilize the cost of energy; and

WHEREAS, in 2016 and 2017 there were no State REF appropriations, and no new projects were initiated in those years; the new formula created in 2015 for applying excess earnings from the PCE endowment was only in 2018 applicable, and continued lack of funding is a threat to the success of the program; and

WHEREAS, new sources of funding should be applied to the Fund when PCE earnings do not meet the appropriate threshold for the effective development of and support for energy projects in Alaska.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League urges the Governor and the Alaska State Legislature to increase investment in the Renewable Energy Fund; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League additionally supports continued investment in State energy and energy efficiency programs, including the Revolving Loan Fund Program, Weatherization, Home Energy Rebate Program, Bulk Fuel Construction Program, and Rural Power System Upgrades.