

RESOLUTION #2020-06

In support of economic, resource and infrastructure development that benefits local governments, the State of Alaska, and Alaska residents.

WHEREAS, the Act of Statehood was only granted to Alaska in 1959, after the commercial discovery of oil led Congress to finally vote in favor of Alaska's statehood, believing that the State could have a healthy economy through development of its natural resources; and

WHEREAS, Alaska depends on responsible development of its natural resources to expand and support its economy, and the right to taxation of the reserved value and production of those resources is reserved to the State; and

WHEREAS, Article VIII of our State constitution mandates that Alaska develop its resources to the maximum benefit of all Alaskans; and

WHEREAS, those benefits include thousands of family wage jobs in Alaska, contributions to two-thirds of the Alaskan economy, as much as ninety percent of State general fund revenues; and

WHEREAS, State revenue contributes to State responsibilities, including public education, the university, public welfare and public health; and

WHEREAS, in some communities, resource development is the sole or major contributor to local government, providing needed government services to area residents; and

WHEREAS, infrastructure development enables effective resource production and reduces the transaction costs of development; and

WHEREAS, investments by and collaboration between the State, local and federal governments, alongside industry, contribute to infrastructure development, and economic development more broadly; and

WHEREAS, that partnership enables not only continued and new responsible resource development to occur, but makes possible new and different economic development opportunities; and

WHEREAS, Alaska's local governments are committed to strengthening the relationships they have with oil and gas, mining, fishing, timber and tourism industries.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League supports economic, resource and infrastructure development that benefits local governments, the State of Alaska, and Alaska residents.