

RESOLUTION #2020-12

Supporting the Legislature's efforts toward consensus on the Permanent Fund Dividend.

WHEREAS, Alaska's resources are owned by the State of Alaska to be managed on behalf of the people of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the creation of the Permanent Fund and its inclusion in the state Constitution effectively creates a sustainable vehicle for resource wealth to be held in trust for future generations; and

WHEREAS, the Permanent Fund Dividend was created in State law to be able to share that resource wealth with current generations, and many Alaskans have come to rely on the Dividend; and

WHEREAS, the Permanent Fund Dividend is important, then, both in principle and practice; and

WHEREAS, the structure of the PFD formula, the current and structured draw on the Earnings Reserve, and the State's fiscal picture combine to create a challenging political and policy environment; and

WHEREAS, this challenge creates delays in decision-making, as well as places undue pressure on the State's budget, which results in cost-shifting and cuts that negatively impact local governments; and

WHEREAS, uncertainty and delays at the State level cause uncertainty and delays at the local level; and

WHEREAS, local governments cannot replace nor sustain the cuts and cost-shifting that may occur during this period, and the options that remain – including tax increases, layoffs and cuts to public safety, education and infrastructure – are not viable; and

WHEREAS, local governments, school districts and other State partners require a State fiscal plan that allows for timely and efficient decision-making; and

WHEREAS, by coming to consensus on the Dividend at the State level, those partners can work with the Legislature on solutions for so many other challenges facing the State.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League supports the Legislature's efforts toward consensus on the Permanent Fund Dividend.