

## RESOLUTION #2020-13

**Supporting the sustainability of the Alaska Universal Service Fund (AUSF) and increased investment in rural infrastructure and affordability.**

WHEREAS, telecommunications infrastructure development in Alaska is challenging and expensive; and

WHEREAS, telecommunications companies in Alaska must have access to the funding necessary to invest in, build, operate, maintain and upgrade rural Alaska's local telecommunications networks; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Universal Service Fund (AUSF) has a decades long history of providing that critical funding; and

WHEREAS, rural Alaska telecommunication networks provide the wired infrastructure for voice, broadband and wireless services; and

WHEREAS, in turn, the AUSF ensures local telecommunications service rates remain affordable, and that local broadband and telecommunication networks (and the companies that provide the networks) remain viable; and

WHEREAS, Alaska's economic future is directly dependent upon the development and statewide availability of affordable local and long-distance telephone services; and

WHEREAS, the concentrated and collective efforts of a strong statewide telephone association ensure government attention to and corporate investment in Alaska's network infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Telecommunications Association provides a platform for such collaboration; and

WHEREAS, working with and through ATA to develop an updated AUSF funding mechanism will support the ongoing development, operation, and maintenance of rural Alaska telecommunication networks.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League supports the sustainability of the Alaska Universal Service Fund (AUSF) and increased investment in rural infrastructure and affordability.