

RESOLUTION #2023-18

A resolution supporting increased statewide broadband connectivity.

WHEREAS, high-speed internet, commonly referred to as “broadband” is the critical infrastructure of the 21st century and a modern-day necessity for businesses, individuals, schools, and government; and

WHEREAS, broadband access and infrastructure provide a critical link facilitating the delivery of essential health, life, safety, education, business, entertainment, and other community needs throughout Alaska; and

WHEREAS, “digital equity,” which is defined as “a condition in which all individuals and communities have the information technology capacity needed for full participation in our society, democracy, and economy,” is necessary for civic and cultural participation, employment, lifelong learning, and access to essential services; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Communication Commission defines “broadband” as a minimum speed of 25 Mbps for download and 3 Mbps for upload; and

WHEREAS, the overwhelming majority of service locations in Alaska communities do not receive these speeds and are therefore classified as “unserved” or “underserved” in terms of digital equity; and

WHEREAS, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, passed in November 2021, provides for significant infrastructure support and funding, including for broadband development.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, AML advocates for increased support and infrastructure funding for reliable broadband connectivity throughout Alaska for health, safety, education, business, and community development needs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that AML supports federal agencies, the State of Alaska’s Office of Broadband, telecommunication companies, community organizations, and Tribal governments to work with municipal and borough governments toward the goal of increasing statewide digital equity and ensuring affordability, access, speed, and public benefit.