

ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE ADOPTED RESOLUTIONS

Resolution #2020-11

A resolution in support of reform of the PILT funding formula to extend multipliers to smaller population counties (boroughs), and permanently authorizing the program.

WHEREAS, through the federal PILT payment, the Department of Interior provides revenue to counties and county equivalents, such as boroughs, to compensate for nontaxable federal acreage within their respective jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, in Alaska, PILT funding is distributed not only to boroughs but also to cities within the unorganized borough, and in 2023 was valued at \$35,448,677; and

WHEREAS, many Alaska boroughs and cities fund the provision of fire and emergency medical response services to the federal lands and infrastructure as well as providing other services, such as solid waste, public safety, and transportation; and

WHEREAS, the numerous nightly camping and lodging offerings located on federal lands are exempt from local taxation; and

WHEREAS, while the annual number of visitors to these federal lands number over 2,920,250, according to the National Park Service, PILT payments are calculated on the local government's year round population, which in many cases can be fewer than 2,000 residents; and

WHEREAS, the National Association of Counties (NACo) has found that the current PILT formula places counties and boroughs with populations under 5,000 in an unfavorable position in relation to counties with populations greater than 5,000; and

WHEREAS, at their Annual Conference in July 2018, NACo adopted a resolution titled "Resolution on Amendments to PILT Population Caps"; and

WHEREAS, this resolution "supports amending the PILT formula to extend the population multipliers to include additional multipliers for local governments with populations in the range 4,000, 3,000, 2,000 and 1,000"; and

WHEREAS, this amendment increases total PILT funding for numerous Alaska local governments; and

WHEREAS, changes to the PILT formula will strengthen the capacity for partnerships that develop at the local level, it will improve the local government's ability to support tourism and access within federal lands, and it will increase community and economic development.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Alaska Municipal League supports reform of the PILT funding formula to extend multipliers to smaller population counties (boroughs), including through federal legislation as that addressed within the Small County PILT Parity Act; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that AML supports permanent reauthorization of the PILT program.

Updated December 2023.

Adopted by the majority of AML members at the Annual Business Meeting, November 22, 2019.