

ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE ADOPTED RESOLUTIONS

Resolution #2024-02

A resolution requesting that the State of Alaska develop and implement a PFAS collection and clean-up effort.

WHEREAS, PFAS chemicals break down very slowly and can build up in people, animals, and the environment over time and are closely associated with a number of cancers, maternal health problems and other serious health risks;

WHEREAS, the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation lists more than 450 sites contaminated by PFAS across the state; and

WHEREAS, PFAS chemicals have contaminated the drinking water in private wells and public water systems in more than ten communities in Alaska, requiring some to rely on shipping in bottled water at great cost; and

WHEREAS, most of the environmental PFAS contamination in Alaska is believed to have been caused by use of firefighting foams at airports, where their use is mandated by the Federal Aviation Administration; and

WHEREAS, more than 130 airports across the state house aging firefighting kits that are out of date and at risk of creating new contamination from firefighting foam that contains PFAS chemicals; and

WHEREAS the cost of proper disposal of the firefighting kits and other materials containing PFAS is prohibitive to many smaller communities; and

WHEREAS, AML recognizes the broad and challenging nature of remediation as well as the threat to public health; and

WHEREAS, it is in the public interest for the State to do what it can to manage and mitigate this environmental and health threat to Alaska communities.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that AML requests that the State of Alaska develop a detailed plan for addressing the removal of all PFAS supplies and equipment from Alaska communities and provide funding for implementation.

Adopted by the majority of AML members at the Annual Business Meeting, December 8, 2023.