

ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE ADOPTED RESOLUTIONS

Resolution #2024-08

A resolution requesting the Alaska State Legislature encourage economic development through housing investments and policymaking.

WHEREAS, some estimates show, the national shortage of affordable housing is 7.2 million, with an estimated 27,500 new housing units needed in Alaska over the next ten years;

WHEREAS, Alaska's rising rent, cost of building, and remodeling makes it one of the most expensive markets nationwide, causing a barrier to attract and retain workforce and Alaskan youth; and

WHEREAS, historically, the State of Alaska has played a role in encouraging housing development through loans or bonding via state agencies like AHFC; and

WHEREAS, until 2022 and the creation of Housing Alaskans: A Public-Private Partnership (HAPPP), Alaska was one of the last states in the country without a statewide housing trust; and

WHEREAS, multiple committees in the Legislature address housing, including Labor and Commerce, State Affairs, and Community and Regional Affairs, with no singular Legislative committee tackling this issue in a systemic way; and

WHEREAS, the lack of available land, which could be alleviated by land transfers from the state and federal governments, and expensive infrastructure such as water, sewer, and road access, causes overcrowding and under development in communities; and

WHEREAS, Alaska's housing issues are at the intersection of workforce and economic development, family and youth retention and homelessness, and solving our housing issues can help to alleviate these matters.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED AML encourages the Alaska Legislature to make meaningful investments into the statewide housing trust, HAPPP; and create a time-limited Legislative Committee to explore statewide housing solutions with actionable goals; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, AML encourages the Alaska Legislature to assist in making developable land available to local governments to spur housing construction; and create an infrastructure revolving fund focused on water, sewer, and roads to assist in development of the land.

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