



RESOLUTION 2011 - 06

A RESOLUTION OF THE SOUTHWEST ALASKA MUNICIPAL CONFERENCE IN SUPPORT OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION'S CRITICAL PROGRAMS AND PRESENCE IN THE STATE OF ALASKA

WHEREAS, Alaska, and more so the United States in general, is still recovering from this nation's worst recession in the past 100 years; and

WHEREAS, Federal programs and investments have helped our economy get back to previous production levels, although there is still much work to be done; and

WHEREAS, the Economic Development Administration (EDA) has been a positive public sector contributor to enhance Alaska's economy in a variety of programs; and

WHEREAS, EDA is the only federal agency with the sole mission to assist in the creation of high quality private sector jobs and promote economic prosperity in America's distressed communities. By federal law, EDA projects require a substantial local match, and EDA investments must leverage additional private sector investments in distressed and underserved areas; and

WHEREAS, the EDA awards grants on a competitive basis and based on regional comprehensive economic development strategies developed by the national network of Economic Development Districts (SWAMC is one) and their local officials, private sector leaders and community representatives. In fact, EDA is one of the few federal agencies with no congressional project earmarks in recent appropriations bills; and

WHEREAS, EDA investments are targeted at public infrastructure - human, community and physical - required to support private sector business needs. These are economic development building blocks that the private sector will NOT build themselves, but instead expect communities to offer and possess; and

WHEREAS, the SWAMC region has greatly benefitted from EDA's past and recent funding assistance, including enhancements to the Bristol Bay Dock, the Kodiak Travel Lift, Harbor Improvements in St. Paul and Unalaska, Bulkhead Extension in Dillingham, and numerous other public works projects and planning grants for several organizations; and

WHEREAS, EDA investments in Southwest Alaska for the past decade have amounted to over \$2.6 million in Non-Construction funding, \$43 million in Construction projects, nearly 3000 new jobs and 4000 jobs retained, and over \$225 million in private investment; and

WHEREAS, the funding levels of EDA and other economic and community development agencies (such as the Denali Commission, USDA Rural Development, and HUD's CDBG program) are under intense scrutiny and consideration in Congress; and

WHEREAS, at a time when our local governments, businesses and communities across the state and nation are struggling to overcome intensifying global competition, replace aging public infrastructure and gain access to business development capital, Congress should be focusing its efforts on increasing funding for EDA's core job creation programs.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference supports the Economic Development Administration's critical programs and presence in the state of Alaska; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference urges Alaska's Congressional Delegation to keep EDA's baseline funding at its FY2010 levels *at a minimum*, with support to increase funding for the Federal government's only private sector job creation agency.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by a duly constituted quorum of the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference Membership this 11th day of February, 2011.

Signed:

Attest:



Alice Ruby, President



Andy Varner, Executive Director