



RESOLUTION 2011 - 12

**A RESOLUTION OF THE SOUTHWEST ALASKA MUNICIPAL CONFERENCE SUPPORTING
LEGISLATION THAT WILL ALLOW THE USE OF THE UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND FOR BUILDING
RURAL FIBER-OPTIC INFRASTRUCTURE**

WHEREAS, in 1988 SWAMC was organized due to a desire by municipal leaders to forge a partnership out of the common interests of the region encompassing the Aleutians East Borough, the Aleutians West Census Area, the Bristol Bay Borough, the Dillingham Census Area, the Kodiak Island Borough, and the Lake & Peninsula Borough; and

WHEREAS, SWAMC is a non-profit regional economic development organization for Southwest Alaska and an advocate for the needs of rural communities and the responsible development of the region's core economic sector - commercial seafood harvesting and processing; and

WHEREAS, SWAMC communities have limited internet speed and broadband capability due to the lack of fiber-optic connections to the World Wide Web; and

WHEREAS, this limited access effects economic activity and other opportunities for rural Alaskans, that those with broadband enjoy; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Communication Commission Chairman Julius Genachowski has started an initiative to reducing regulatory barriers to spur broadband build out by transforming the Universal Service Fund; and

WHEREAS, the Universal Service Fund has over \$6.0 Billion dollars that is presently available for building out the fiber-optic infrastructure in rural America; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that SWAMC recognizes the significance of high speed internet with increased band width and its impact on economic development and supports legislation that will allow the use of the Universal Service Fund to build our rural fiber-optic system.

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

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alice A. Ruby", written over a horizontal line.

Alice Ruby, President

Attest:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andy Varner", written over a horizontal line.

Andy Varner, Executive Director