

I. FISHERIES

The goal of the SWAMC Fisheries Policies is to promote commercial fisheries for the creation of jobs and other economic opportunities for stakeholder communities, businesses, and individuals throughout Southwest Alaska. The SWAMC region is inextricably dependent upon commercial fishing and support sector activities; the importance of this industry to our communities in terms of jobs and other employment opportunities, taxes, and public utility revenues cannot be overstated. Continuous innovation and adaptation of new harvesting and processing technologies and marketing efforts are essential to strengthening the commercial fishing industry within and economic viability of the SWAMC region.

The ultimate goal of the policy is to encourage sustainable commercial and subsistence fisheries. In order to do this it is necessary to adequately fund ADF&G's program priorities with the added goal of making ADF&G employee compensation competitive to maintain a full complement of qualified staff to oversee the department's programs.

A. RURAL SUBSISTENCE PRIORITY. The Conference supports the establishment of a rural subsistence priority in Alaska.

B. FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLANS. The Conference supports prominent recognition and consideration of the socioeconomic importance and historic participation of Southwest Alaska fisheries-dependent communities in all state and Federal fishery management plans. The Conference also supports state and Federal efforts to coordinate and develop a comprehensive, integrated fishery management plan to ensure sustainable harvest levels and equity among stakeholders in the distribution of the benefits of those fisheries.

C. FISHERIES RESEARCH. The Conference supports ecosystem-based marine and fisheries research initiatives, with the understanding that such research efforts are of paramount importance for the long-term health and economic viability of Southwest Alaska fishing communities. The Conference supports adequate funding for the National Marine Fisheries Service and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to allow them to manage sustainable fisheries. The Conference recognizes the importance of coordinating and integrating marine and fisheries research programs, including stock assessments, endangered and threatened species studies, and community economic assessments, to assist resource managers maintain one of the most productive marine ecosystems in the world and ensure the continued viability of Southwest Alaska fisheries-dependent communities. The Conference also urges the ADFG to improve its fish escapement count procedures and equipment.

D. SAFETY. The Conference strongly encourages increasing state and Federal funding for marine vessel and other watercraft safety programs.

E. FISHERIES BUSINESS TAX CREDITS. The Conference supports legislation reestablishing the Fisheries Business Tax Credit program for fish processors to receive credit for capital improvements to fish processing plants for value-added processing. The Conference supports

the application of the fisheries business tax credit to cooperative or municipal utility construction related to value-added processing.

F. MARKETING. The Conference supports state and Federal funding for the continuing efforts of the Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute (ASMI), with emphasis on wider distribution of products. The Conference supports a geographic balance on the ASMI Board of Directors.

G. MARICULTURE. The Conference supports the development of a stable, year-round private shellfish mariculture industry that may provide Southwest Alaska coastal communities with a needed year-round fishing industry.

H. STATE GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT. The Conference urges the State of Alaska to fund research in an amount necessary to maintain management authority over groundfish and other fishery allocations within state waters.

I. OBSERVER PROGRAM. The Conference supports full Federal funding for the domestic observer program and this funding to be included in the base NOAA budget. This program and its funding are essential to ensuring long term sustainable fisheries.

J. FISHERIES HABITAT PROTECTION. The Conference encourages state and Federal agencies responsible for fisheries habitat protection to coordinate future plans with local and regional governments to minimize socioeconomic impacts.

K. BOARD OF FISH MEETINGS. The Conference encourages the Alaska Board of Fish to schedule and hold their meetings in the impacted Southwest Alaska region whose issues they are addressing.

L. CREW DATA COLLECTION. The Conference urges the state to expedite the development of collecting crew data for use in social and economic impact studies, and for use in existing and future fisheries rationalization/management programs.

II. INFRASTRUCTURE

The purpose of the SWAMC Infrastructure Policy is to recognize the importance of transportation and utilities infrastructure to the economic and social well being of Alaska communities, to support planning for an integrated transportation system, to assist local governments in providing potable water, wastewater treatment, solid waste disposal, and other utilities, and to advocate for a stable and equitable approach to the funding of construction and maintenance of these facilities.

A. PUBLIC WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE POLICY

1. Municipal Capital Matching Grants for Construction of Public Facilities: The Conference supports increased funding for the Municipal Capital Matching Grants Program as the most efficient and effective means of constructing needed public facilities.

B. LOCAL GOVERNMENT INVOLVEMENT IN TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

1. **Southwest Alaska Transportation Plan:** The Conference supports the continued development and near-term implementation of the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities' Southwest Alaska Transportation Plan that combines overall regional transportation needs.
2. **Local Participation in the Planning Process:** As partners in maintaining transportation systems, it is imperative that the state and Federal agencies responsible for transportation infrastructure development consult with and fully involve applicable local and/or regional governments in all phases of a proposed project.

C. SURFACE TRANSPORTATION

1. **Statewide Transportation Improvement Program:** The Conference urges the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities to continue to work with local and regional governments to establish criteria for prioritizing projects in the development of the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), involve local and regional governments in identifying proposed projects, and provide for an equitable sharing of federal receipts for local surface transportation needs.
2. **STIP Scoring Criteria:** The Conference strongly urges the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities to revise the scoring criteria used to rank projects in the STIP, particularly for the Community Transportation Program (CTP) and Trails and Recreational Access for Alaska (TRAAK) program. The STIP scoring criteria rewards communities that make local funding commitments for design, construction, and long-term maintenance. While the intent is laudable, the practical effect is to penalize less affluent communities and inhibit efforts to develop their economy. Many Alaska communities, particularly those in rural areas, are simply unable to allocate scarce local funds for surface transportation projects. Additionally, the Conference recommends a set aside of Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) funds for economic development projects in economically distressed communities and regions of the state.
3. **Pathways:** The Conference supports provisions for pathways on road projects in Southwest Alaska where supported by the appropriate local and/or regional governments.

D. AIR TRANSPORTATION

1. **Airport Improvement Program:** The Conference urges the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities to revise the scoring criteria used to rank projects in the Airport Improvement Program (AIP) to increase priority for airports in communities not connected by road or railroad to the National Highway System. Additionally, the Conference recommends a set aside of AIP funds for economic development projects in economically distressed communities and regions of the state.

2. Essential Air Service and By-Pass Mail: The Conference strongly urges Congress to maintain funding for essential air service and by-pass mail programs at levels sufficient to provide an appropriate level of service. These programs are essential to the economic vitality of Southwest Alaska and to the health, safety, and well being of its residents.

3. Minimum Runway Length Standard: The Conference urges Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) to adopt flexible standards for runway lengths so that it is possible to build longer runways if they can be justified. The standard minimum runway length employed by DOT&PF is driving up the cost of living and serving as a barrier to economic development in many communities.

4. Transfer of Land and Facilities for Airports: The Conference supports transfer of Federal and state lands and facilities to municipalities or another appropriate entity for the construction and expansion of airport facilities and operations.

5. Airport Construction Assistance: The Conference supports an equitable approach to state construction assistance for both state and municipal airports and the concept of necessary expansion and upgrading of airports, airport facilities, and air navigational aids.

6. Airport Maintenance: The Conference supports the adequate funding for equipment and maintenance of airports.

7. Air Carrier and Aircraft Liability Insurance: The Conference supports state assistance in the development and expansion of air carrier and aircraft liability insurance programs.

E. MARINE TRANSPORTATION

1. Marine Transportation System Development: The Conference urges the state to plan for and develop regional marine transportation systems that tie the state together into a single integrated system, reliably and predictably meet public and private transportation needs, and contribute to local, regional, and statewide economic development for Southwest Alaska.

2. Land Acquisition: The Conference supports transfer to municipalities of Federal and state lands to provide for needed expansion and/or development of municipal port facilities and operations.

3. Port and Harbor Development: The Conference supports upgrading boat harbors to acceptable community standards by the DOT&PF prior to the transfer of any such facility to a community and only with the agreement of the local government.

4. Municipal Harbor Facility Grant Program: The Conference urges the Legislature to fully fund Tiers I and II of the Municipal Harbor Facility Grant Program, the 50/50 matching grant that provides financial assistance to municipal owned harbor facilities.

5. **Alaska Marine Highway System:** The Conference supports improving Alaska Marine Highway System (AMHS) service between Southwest Alaska ports by increasing the level of service to two trips per month out the Aleutian island chain from April to September. The Conference supports efforts to increase Alaska Marine Highway System (AMHS) operational efficiencies, without reductions in existing service. The Conference requests the AMHS to consider economic impact on affected local communities, including economic development, when scheduling service and rates.

6. **Vessel Replacement Fund for the Alaska Marine Highway System:** The Conference urges the state and Federal governments to appropriate money into the vessel replacement fund for the Alaska Marine Highway System. It further urges that funding for the system include construction and maintenance of adequate shore-based facilities and continued planning for timely vessel construction. The Conference also supports full consistent and predictable funding for maintenance and operation of the Marine Highway System.

7. **Equitable Status Basis:** The Conference supports inclusion of the Alaska Marine Highway System (AMHS) on an equitable basis with other state road and highway systems, transportation planning efforts and funding. Further, the Conference strongly urges the state to fund and operate the AMHS in a manner consistent with other state essential transportation modes such as roads and air.

8. **Feeder Ferries:** The Conference supports the concept of public or private regional feeder ferries where supported by local communities.

F. UTILITY REGULATION

1. **Exemption of Municipal Utilities from RCA APUC:** The Conference supports the current statutory exemptions that allow municipal utilities to operate in the best interest of the consumer without regulation by the Regulatory Commission of Alaska (RCA).

2. **Net Metering:** The Conference supports the concept of net metering to encourage the deployment of renewable energy, but urges legislation that gives power-producing utilities the option and flexibility to devise a structure that would benefit renewable energy generators while also providing the lowest costs possible for utility consumers.

G. RURAL SANITATION ACTION PLAN

1. **Rural Sanitation Action Strategy:** The Conference supports the implementation of the Rural Sanitation 2005 Recommended Six Component Action Strategy as a comprehensive approach to construction, and long-term operation and maintenance of sanitation systems.

2. **Secondary Wastewater Treatment:** The Conference supports increased State and Federal funding to communities in order to meet the promulgated requirements of government agency regulations regarding secondary wastewater treatment.

H. FUNDING ASSISTANCE FOR UTILITIES

1. **Municipal Matching Grant Program:** The Conference supports continuation of the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation's Municipal Water, Sewerage, and Solid Waste Matching Grant program.
2. **Village Safe Water Program:** The Conference supports continuation of the Village Safe Water Program of the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation to meet the needs of rural Alaskan communities throughout the state. The Conference supports state technical and financial assistance to rural communities to improve the most basic sanitation facilities.
3. **Revolving Loan Programs:** The Conference supports continuation of revolving loan programs such as the Drinking Water Fund and the Clean Water Fund for the construction of water, wastewater, and solid waste systems.
4. **Solid Waste Reduction Programs:** The Conference supports funding and implementation of regional and statewide solid waste reduction programs such as recycling, litter reduction, and backhauling, and operated in conjunction with municipal governments.
5. **Public Landfills:** The Conference supports the concept of state established public landfill sites where no alternate sites exist to serve local and regional needs of small communities which are currently bearing a considerable burden by complying with federal and state environmental regulations.
6. **Rural Power Development:** The Conference supports the development and implementation of a comprehensive energy plan, including alternative and renewable technologies and expanded conservation and efficiency efforts, as a way to hold down the costs of power throughout Southwest Alaska. The Conference also recognizes that fuel efficiency upgrades to existing power systems also provide cost benefits to Southwest Alaskans.
7. **Bulk Fuel Revolving Loan Program:** The Conference supports full funding of the Bulk Fuel Revolving Loan program and an increase in the cap on the amount that eligible communities can borrow.

I. TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND COMPUTING

1. **Statewide Expansion of Telecommunication Bandwidth:** The Conference supports the fostering and development of statewide telecommunications systems with public and private cooperation for purposes of economic development, research, telemedicine, and distance education.
2. **Development of Statewide Integrated Emergency Radio Communications System:** The Conference supports the continued development and implementation of Alaska's Land Mobile

Radio System (ALMR) to ensure reliable communications during disasters and emergency events.

3. Alaska Rural Communications Service: The Conference urges continued support for ARCS and public broadcasting as a critical link for emergency communications for communities.

III. TOURISM

A. PROMOTION AND MARKETING.

The Conference supports:

1. increased funding for state tourism marketing and development opportunities;
2. assistance to communities for local and regional tourism promotion, and;
3. implementation of tourism planning, development, and marketing strategies

B. INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION. The Conference encourages active coordination of state, Federal, and private sector tourism marketing initiatives targeting Southwest Alaska with appropriate communities, chambers' of commerce, convention and visitors' bureaus, and other entities within the SWAMC region.

IV. EDUCATION

A. FUNDING FOR LIBRARIES. The Conference supports funding, including grants, to municipalities for libraries.

B. DISTANCE DELIVERY PROGRAMS. The Conference supports distance delivery programs that a local district selects to meet specific educational needs of various student populations.

C. ACADEMIC STANDARDS. The Conference strongly urges the state to evaluate potential social and economic impacts to individuals and communities related to the implementation of mandatory academic standards, including the statewide high school exit exam. The Conference urges the adequate funding of the state's education system in order to meet all mandated standards.

D. CAMPUSES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA. The Conference supports adequate funding levels to ensure equitable program delivery for each extended campus of the University of Alaska.

V. PUBLIC SERVICES

A. STATE PUBLIC SAFETY RESPONSIBILITY

1. Alaska Department of Public Safety Responsibility:

- a. **Alaska State Troopers:** The Conference strongly supports increased funding for the Alaska State Troopers for stationing additional personnel in Southwest Alaska to provide more timely responses to life-threatening incidents.
- b. **VPSO Program:** The Conference strongly urges increased state funding, including cost of living adjustments, for the Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO) program. The Conference also supports state certification, training, and background verification for VPSO and Village Police Officer (VPO) candidates.
- c. **Division of Fish and Wildlife Protection:** The Conference supports adequate funding for the Department of Public Safety, Division of Fish and Wildlife Protection.

2. Youth:

- a. **Juvenile Detention and Correction Costs:** The Conference supports a state/local process to develop consistent policies for state/local roles in providing police, jail, and prosecution services. Juvenile detention and correctional programs require different facilities. The Conference supports the construction and operation of these facilities in local communities to minimize transportation costs and maintain community involvement.
- b. **Division of Family and Youth Services:** The Conference supports adequate funding for the Alaska Division of Family and Youth Services in Southwest Alaska to improve the processing of case loads and reduce staff turnover and burnout.

3. Jails and Correction Facilities.

- a. **Contract Jails and Holding Facilities.** The Conference supports funding for contract jails at levels sufficient to allow communities to maintain and operate jails. The state should accept an equitable share of staff training and liability associated with operating these jails and set standards for the safe operation and maintenance of jails. The Conference strongly urges the state to provide funds for additional community jails in areas that do not have them because of the lack of state funding.
- b. **New Jail Space.** The Conference supports additional funding for new jail space and operations. Overcrowding in jails is a serious problem and new jail space is needed. Public safety for all Alaskans is critically affected by the availability of jails. The cost of constructing and operating jails are beyond the financial abilities of local municipalities.

4. **Courts**: The Conference supports full funding for district attorney's offices so that criminals are prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. The SWAMC opposes any legislation that forces communities to prosecute criminals.

5. **Crime Lab**: The Conference supports increased State and Federal funding of the State's Crime Lab to avoid back logs and lengthy investigations.

6. **Violence Prevention**: The Conference supports programs and funding for the prevention and intervention of violence in our communities, including the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault.

B. HEALTH

1. **Hospital and Health Facility Funding**: The Conference supports state assistance for hospital and health facility construction and operating costs.

2. **Rural Health**: The Conference supports State and Federal assistance for rural health care providers.

3. **Telemedicine**: The Conference supports telemedicine services throughout Alaska.

C. OIL, GAS, AND MINERAL RESOURCES

1. **Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR)**. The Conference urges the opening of the Coastal Plain of the Arctic Oil Reserve to environmentally responsible oil and gas exploration, development, and production. The Conference supports the 90-10 split of revenues as required by the Statehood Act.

2. **National Petroleum Reserve Alaska**. The Conference supports oil and gas leasing and other mineral entry in the National Petroleum Reserve Alaska.

3. **Exploration and Development**. The Conference encourages the State of Alaska to promote environmentally responsible oil, gas, and mineral exploration and development that are not detrimental to Alaska's fisheries or subsistence activities.

4. **North Slope Natural Gas Pipeline**. The Conference supports the construction of a pipeline to transport North Slope natural gas to market as soon as possible.

5. **Rural Natural Gas Wells**. The Conference supports development of rural natural gas wells for local consumption and urges the state to fund a pilot program to test this technology.

F. **Mineral Resources**. The Conference supports state, Federal, and private sector efforts to identify and extract minerals in Southwest Alaska, provided any such development has

adequate and appropriate environmental safeguards for the protection of fisheries and other natural resources and where supported by proximal communities.

VI. HUMAN RESOURCES

A. ALASKA HIRE. The Conference supports and encourages additional efforts to implement an Alaska local hire policy that would not preempt local or regional government policies and/or ordinances.

B. TRAINING INCENTIVES. The Conference supports incentives that would encourage contractors and other employers to train and apprentice local workers and would encourage their employment.

C. VOCATIONAL PROGRAMS. The Conference supports expanded vocational programs in the primary school and University of Alaska systems. The Conference also urges the development of public/private partnerships in the development of vocational training with an emphasis on expanding the state's Voc-Tech programs and facilities.

VII. REVENUE AND FINANCE

A. LONG RANGE STATE-LOCAL FISCAL PLAN

1. Long Range State-Local Fiscal Plan: The Conference supports the adoption of a long-range state-local fiscal plan that ensures a stable future for Alaska residents by promoting adequate state and local services, while maintaining the lowest practicable state and local tax burden.

B. STATE REVENUE ASSISTANCE FOR COMMUNITIES

1. State Revenue Sharing Programs: The Conference supports a stable and predictable revenue sharing relationship between local governments and the State of Alaska to promote community and economic development. The shifting of state funding responsibilities to local communities carries the burden of higher taxes and reduced services that will hurt Alaska's residents and its economy.

2. Municipal Capital Matching Grants: The Conference supports funding for the Municipal Capital Matching Grant Program in an amount to provide for local capital improvement needs.

3. Deferred Maintenance: The Conference supports expanding the existing State of Alaska deferred maintenance program to provide ongoing funding for state and municipal public facilities. The Conference supports the use of revenue sources other than local taxation for state mandated facilities, and at a level at which municipalities can implement a deferred maintenance program and establish necessary reserves sufficient for future maintenance.

4. Marine Fuel Taxes: The Conference supports a shared revenue allocation for the existing and any future increase in the State of Alaska marine fuel tax with municipalities that have responsibility and/or ownership for marine ports and harbors for use in marine port harbor facilities maintenance and improvements.

5. State Fisheries Business and Fisheries Landing Taxes:

a. Revenue Sharing. The Conference supports changing the statutory 50-50 sharing of the state Fisheries Business Landing Tax revenues between the state and municipalities by reducing the state's share by 50 percent and allocating these funds to the municipality where the product is landed.

b. Enforcement. The Conference urges the state to strengthen its enforcement and collection efforts in this program and further urges the state to share collection information with municipalities upon request.

c. Shared Data. The Conference urges the state to cooperate and share with municipalities data used to determine shared fisheries landing and business tax amounts.

D. LOCAL TAXES

1. Tax-Levying Authority: The Conference supports broader municipal authority to consider alternatives to property taxes. The Conference opposes any action that would diminish the existing statutory authority of local governments to raise needed revenues through the levy of taxes. The Conference opposes any efforts by the state that would reduce local tax bases or adversely affect the marketability of municipal bonds. The Conference supports legislation to allow local voters to approve a special tax on alcohol.

2. State Sales Tax and Property Tax: The Conference opposes the incursion of the state into current municipal taxes such as sales and property tax.

E. STATE-LOCAL FINANCIAL POLICIES AND RELATIONS

1. Unfunded State Mandates on Municipalities: The Conference supports a statutory prohibition of state unfunded mandates passed down to municipalities that is similar to the Federal statute prohibiting Federal unfunded mandates passed down to states.

F. MUNICIPAL BONDING

1. Municipal Bond Bank: The Conference supports the continuation of the Municipal Bond Bank as an independent entity to help municipalities meet public facility construction needs at the lowest possible bonding cost.

2. **Municipal Bond Tax Exemption:** The Conference supports the maintenance of the tax exemption of municipal bonds and federal legislation to remove restrictions placed on municipal bonds.

3. **School Bond Indebtedness:**

a. **Funding.** The Conference supports full funding for school debt reimbursement programs.

b. **Bonding Capacity.** The Conference urges the state to authorize additional bonding for the 70/30 municipal school debt reimbursement in an amount adequate to meet existing school facility needs.

c. **Earned Interest.** The Conference opposes any effort by the state to reduce school debt reimbursement through deduction of interest earned on school bond proceeds.

F. **FEDERAL ISSUES**

1. **Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Revenue Sharing:** The Conference endorses enactment by the United States Congress of an OCS revenue sharing program that would guarantee a fair share of offshore oil and natural gas revenue to coastal states. This should provide participating states 37.5 percent of all rents, royalties and bonuses from environmentally responsible oil and gas development in adjacent federal waters. The Conference also endorses an automatic direct pass-through of a fair and equitable amount of the state's allocation under this program to communities impacted by OCS activities during exploration and development.

2. **Payments in Lieu of Taxes:** The Conference supports full funding of the federal Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program and legislation that would inflation proof the program. In addition, the Conference supports the continued inclusion of direct payments to municipalities in the unorganized borough under the PILT program.

3. **Internet Sales Tax and Out-of-State Sales:** The Conference supports the efforts of the National League of Cities and National Association of Counties to fairly tax internet and out-of-state transactions respecting local option to the extent feasible and allowing collection by parties involved in the transactions.

IX. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT POWERS**

A. **PUBLIC EMPLOYEE LABOR RELATIONS**

1. **Alaska Public Employees Labor Relations Act:** The Conference opposes any legislation that would force municipalities to be subject to the provisions of the Alaska Public Employees Labor Relations Act. The scope of decisions as to local government finance and labor policies is best left to the local governing body.

2. **Binding Arbitration**: The Conference opposes legislation imposing binding arbitration on local governments and school districts.

B. TRIBAL COUNCIL/STATE GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

1. **Tribal/State Government Relations**: The Conference supports and encourages continuing efforts to improve tribal/state and municipal government relations, including the recommendations of the Commission on Rural Governance.

C. COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

1. **Alaska Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development**: The Conference supports adequate funding for the functions of the Alaska Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development, Division of Community and Regional Affairs and the Office of Economic Development, including sufficient field and support staff to effectively serve Southwest Alaska.

D. STATE POLICIES AFFECTING LOCAL COMMUNITIES

1. **State Programs and Services in Rural Communities**: The Conference strongly opposes the disproportionate reduction or elimination of state offices, programs, and personnel in rural Alaska. Although the conference recognizes the need for further reductions in the state budget, the Governor and Legislature are urged to make every effort to ensure that rural residents and communities of the state are treated equitably with respect to future budget cuts.

2. **Recorder's Office**: The Conference supports the funding and maintenance of accessible State District Recorder's Offices recognizing that the function is vital to local communities, businesses, and residents.

X. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

A. REGIONAL SUPPORT FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

1. **Access to Capital**: The Conference supports increased funding opportunities in the forms of loans and grants for small businesses, entrepreneurs, and industry development.

2. **Technical Assistance**: The Conference supports the expansion of technical assistance programs and business support services to build capacity of the region's business community.

B. STATE AND FEDERAL SUPPORT FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

1. **Economic Development Planning**: The Conference supports the funding of a comprehensive, long-term economic development plan for the state of Alaska that focuses on

infrastructure development, workforce development, industry development and expansion, and economic diversification.

2. Statewide Regulatory Framework: The conference supports a comprehensive review of the State's regulatory framework to eliminate duplicity, mitigate hurdles to business development, and create a positive business development climate.

3. Alaska Regional Development Organizations: The Conference supports increased funding for and continuation of the Alaska Regional Development Organization (ARDOR) program for supporting local and regional development initiatives.

4. Economic Development Districts: The Conference supports continued funding for the Planning Grant and other related programs administered by the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) for supporting local and regional development initiatives.

5. Denali Commission: The Conference supports the mission, purpose, and funding of the Denali Commission to improve infrastructure, encourage economic development, and play a key role in coordinating state and Federal agency services in Alaska.