

A Resolution of the Haines Borough Assembly Urging the Alaska Legislature to Pass a Balanced, Sustainable, and Predictable State Budget to Help Ensure Long Term Social and Economic Stability for the Communities and Citizens of the State of Alaska.

WHEREAS, the Governor's proposed budget would have significant adverse impacts in the lives of Haines residents, our community security, and the regional and statewide economy, and will require municipalities, including the Haines Borough, to abruptly adjust our budgets to support core services, like education, public health and safety; and

WHEREAS, negative impacts of the proposed budget directly reduce our existing local revenues, like sales and property taxes, that fund 66 percent of the Haines Borough's general government services and would drain our diligently saved cash reserves; and

WHEREAS, Haines could lose a significant number of jobs and more residents because the proposed budget prioritizes increased individual dividends over basic state services; and

WHEREAS, eliminating the School Construction Debt Reimbursement will cost Haines over 900,000 dollars annually, and moreover sets a precedent that future Governors and Legislators will not follow through on financial commitments that incentivize investment in all Alaskan communities; and

WHEREAS, the Haines Borough like all Alaskan communities, expects budget certainty from the Administration and the Legislature to allow for long term planning and the creation of sustainable local budgets that provide for reliable services, a stable business environment, and strong public schools; and

WHEREAS, the Haines Borough Assembly believes that coordination between state and local government is essential; and

WHEREAS, Haines has seen significant reductions to state services and restructuring of reserves over the last four legislative sessions; and

WHEREAS, the continued fiscal reality requires the Legislature to demonstrate strong leadership and bold action to pass a budget that creates a secure and hopeful future for all Alaskans from Headstart students to Pioneer Home residents,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HAINES BOROUGH ASSEMBLY:

Section 1.

Requests that the Alaska State Legislature take immediate action to adopt a budget that will provide for a sustainable and predictable balanced state budget for the foreseeable future, and calls upon the Governor to partner with the Legislature and support its budget.

Section 2.

Requests that the improved State budget does not shift the funding burden for core services such as education and transportation from the State to local municipalities. We are opposed to the State seizing local sources of revenue from municipalities especially the raw fish tax which our community relies on, and urges the Alaska State Legislature to engage in meaningful discussions of all fiscal options (including broad based state taxes such as

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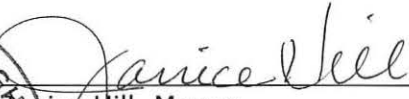
income or payroll) with the goal of providing a strong future to Alaska citizens with sustainable revenue sources that complement, rather than conflict with communities like Haines which has a long history of sales and property tax collection.

Adopted by a duly-constituted quorum of the Haines Borough Assembly on this 26th day of March, 2019.

Attest:


Alekka Fullerton, CMC, Borough Clerk




Janice Hill, Mayor