

# Southeast Conference

## Resolution 16-02

### A RESOLUTION BY SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE IN SUPPORT OF SECURING ALASKA'S FISCAL FUTURE

**WHEREAS**, Southeast Conference represents Alaskan companies, organizations and individuals across the southeast region by continually seeking to improve the business climate and ensure a healthy economy for future generations; and

**WHEREAS**, our advocacy for the interests in Southeast Alaska is based upon the core values of economic health, opportunities, free market and responsible business development; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of Alaska is spending more money each year than it is taking in; and

**WHEREAS**, uncertainty of the State's financial future harms Alaska families and businesses; and

**WHEREAS**, businesses will not invest in an undisciplined state that continually returns to taxation as an answer to unsustainable spending; and

**WHEREAS**, a stable financial future for Alaskans requires the State to reduce spending to a level Alaskans can afford; and

**WHEREAS**, in a statewide January 2015 poll, 57% of Alaskans said the state should live within its means. In a poll of business leaders, 70% supported deep cuts to the existing state budget as the first step in reaching a sustainable budget; and

**WHEREAS**, the fiscal challenges facing the State are not new and the tools available to address the problem are well defined; and

**WHEREAS**, the State has more than \$60 billion in financial assets which currently generate more income than what the State receives from oil production; and

**WHEREAS**, Governor Jay Hammond's vision for the Permanent Fund at its inception included the eventual use of the Permanent Fund's *earnings* to help pay for essential government services; and

**WHEREAS**, working Alaskans will be unwilling to accept individual taxation without confidence that the State is only funding appropriate, efficient services

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, Southeast Conference supports the State achieving fiscal and economic stability by reducing State spending to a level it can afford on a sustainable basis.

**THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Southeast Conference believes the first step to securing Alaska's fiscal future is to reduce the State operating budget to a sustainable level by prioritizing government services as defined by the constitution; reviewing all formula-driven programs for cost effectiveness; eliminating services that are not a function of government; and vigorously pursuing efficiencies to ensure essential service can continue to be delivered which may include privatization or other methods to deliver services.

**THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Southeast Conference believes the next step in getting Alaska's fiscal house in order requires creation of a framework to use Permanent Fund earnings to support essential services, which may include a cap on the individual dividend; and

**THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, Southeast Conference believes that exploration of new


## Southeast Conference

broad based taxes should be pursued in juncture with all other options.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this resolution be distributed to:  
Governor Bill Walker, State of Alaska  
All Alaska State Legislators

**ADOPTED BY THE SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE ON SEPTEMBER 17, 2015 AND IS DUE TO  
SUNSET ON SEPTEMBER 17, 2016.**

Witness By:



Garry White, President

Attest:



Shelly Wright, Executive Director