



## **Resolution 23-01**

### **“Opposition to an Alaska State Constitutional Convention in 2022”**

**WHEREAS**, the Lt. Governor is required to put before voters the ballot question: “Shall there be a constitutional convention?” if a convention hasn’t been called within the last 10 years. This question will appear on the November 8, 2022, ballot and;

**WHEREAS**, Alaska’s Constitution was ratified in 1956 and is a concise, elegant, document that provides Alaskans with freedoms and rights unique to our state and has served the people of Alaska well, often referenced as a model constitution which has been a stabilizing guide through turbulent political times, and;

**WHEREAS**, Alaskans have consistently voted against a constitutional convention and instead, have opted for the more targeted, transparent constitutional amendment process for change that already exists, and;

**WHEREAS**, a constitutional convention could open up the entire constitution for revision, and;

**WHEREAS**, southeast Alaska communities could have the most to lose under a newly-written constitution as the ferry system, fishing access and management, hunting rights, subsistence, mineral and water rights, Power Cost Equalization, rural education funding, and government services to the region’s rural areas could all be in jeopardy, and;

**WHEREAS**, holding a constitutional convention will provide another space for partisan politics making it even more difficult to work together for the future of Alaska and;

**WHEREAS**, Southeast Conference polled 440 business leaders in the region, and 84% were not in favor of a constitutional convention, and;

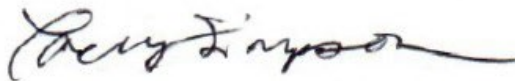
**WHEREAS**, Alaska’s economic future could be thrown into disarray, with economic, legal, and regulatory uncertainty stymieing future investment. Taxes, environmental regulations, education, and more could be revised, and final approval of any changes made would come at the end of a multi-year process, and;

**WHEREAS**, the membership of Southeast Conference is gathered in Ketchikan, Alaska for the 2022 Annual Meeting to deliberate on critical issues confronting the region and took the question of, “shall there be a constitutional convention’ under advisement, and;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** after deliberation and consensus of the majority of the membership gathered at the 2022 Annual meeting, that the Southeast Conference opposes a constitutional convention:

**Adopted by the Southeast Conference on September 15, 2022.**

Witness by:



Lacey Simpson  
President

Attest:



Robert Venables  
Executive Director