

ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE

RESOLUTION #2016-01

A RESOLUTION URGING THE ALASKA LEGISLATURE TO ADOPT A SUSTAINABLE BUDGET PLAN FOR FY2017 AND BEYOND; WHILE GIVING SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO THE SUSTAINABILITY PLAN SUBMITTED BY THE ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE.

WHEREAS, due to the drop in the price of oil, coupled with the decreased amount of oil in the pipeline, the State of Alaska has found itself with a \$3.5 billion gap in its budget for FY16; and

WHEREAS, last year, the Legislature alleviated some of the problem by severely cutting the capital budget; and

WHEREAS, substantial cuts were also made to the operating budget; and

WHEREAS, cutting either of those budgets as a sole means to solving our fiscal challenge will only serve to push our state into an economic recession; and

WHEREAS, the majority of the Legislature continues to feel that the solution is more government cuts; and

WHEREAS, historically the Legislature has felt the solution is more government cuts; and

WHEREAS, the President of the Alaska Municipal League created an ad hoc committee to address this issue from the perspective of local government; and

WHEREAS, this committee is cognizant of the fact that municipalities must have a sustainable commitment from the Legislature in order for municipalities to remain sustainable; and

WHEREAS, despite a fiscal challenge, municipalities must continue to provide basic and essential services; and

WHEREAS, with these facts in mind, the AML Sustainability Committee has developed a plan from the perspective of local government; and

WHEREAS, AML believes that the leaders of our state should immediately adopt changes to not only lower the cost of government, but move quickly to raise revenues; and

WHEREAS, at the same time, Alaska's local governments realize we must understand the state and/or federal government will no longer continue to fund local government as before; and

WHEREAS, as more responsibilities are passed down to the subdivisions of the state during this fiscal challenge, we must be given the "tools" to allow that to happen.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League urges the Alaska Legislature to adopt a sustainable budget plan for FY 2017 and beyond; while giving serious consideration to the Sustainability Plan submitted by the Alaska Municipal League.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Alaska Municipal League on this 20th day of November, 2015.



Signed: _____
Bob Harcharek, President, Alaska Municipal League

Attest: _____
Kathie Wasserman, Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League