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Prepared by: Department of Assembly
For reading:

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA
AR NO. 2001-337

A RESOLUTION OF THE ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY APPROVING
COMMON FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES BETWEEN THE MATANUSKA-
SUSITNA BOROUGH AND THE MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE FOR THE YEAR
2002.

WHEREAS, the legislative sessions for 2002 will convene in January 2002; and

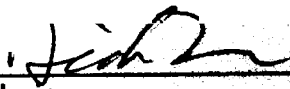
WHEREAS, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough and Municipality of Anchorage share
a regional economy; and

WHEREAS, to ensure that urgent regional needs are met, the two Assemblies wish
to set common Federal legislative priorities for the year 2002.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Anchorage Municipal Assembly
hereby sets the following common Federal legislative priorities between the Matanuska-
Susitna Borough and the Municipality of Anchorage for the year 2002:

- 1 Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT)
2. Funding Program for Marine Ports
3. Knik Arm Crossing
4. Increase Funding for Special Education Programs
5. Urban Interface Wild Land Fire Prevention

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Assembly this 20th day of November,
2001


Chair

ATTEST:


Municipal Clerk

➤ Federal Legislation

- **Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT)**

A considerable amount of land remains in federal ownership within Alaska and in particular, the Municipality of Anchorage and Matanuska-Susitna Borough. These federal lands are exempt from local property taxes yet generate the need for municipal services. The PILT program provides a payment in lieu of taxes to help mitigate for lack of tax payments. Both municipalities support the full funding of the PILT program and that it be adjusted for inflation.

- **Funding Program for Marine Ports**

No specific funding program exists for capital improvements of marine port facilities. The failure of a separate program has resulted in the under funding of the nation's port facilities. The lack of a specific funding program has also resulted in the use of funding programs that are not designed for port projects resulting in undue delay and conformance with inappropriate regulations. Both municipalities support a capital-funding program through the U.S. Department of Transportation that addresses marine port facilities.

Knik Arm Crossing

There is presently only one surface transportation link between the Municipality of Anchorage and the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, Alaska's most populous area, its chief economic region, and the state's primary transportation hub. A disruption to the existing transportation link would cause severe havoc to the state's economy. The proposed Knik Arm Crossing will provide a second transportation link and thereby protect the state's economy from disruptions that may sever the existing single transportation link. In addition, the Knik Arm Crossing will connect the region's ports thereby strengthening commerce. The Knik Arm Crossing will also provide access to additional lands for industrial and residential development that is currently in high demand. Both municipalities support the full funding of the necessary updates to previously completed environmental and design documents as well as a regional transportation study.

- **Funding for Specialized Education**

Existing federal assistance for special education programs are a significant portion of the operating budgets of the region's education districts. These funds allow the school districts of each municipality to deliver educational services to children and young adults requiring special needs. Both municipalities support an increase in the program in order to provide a basic level of education services to those with special needs.

Urban Interface Wild Land Fire Prevention

Most of the forest in south-central Alaska is over mature, diseased and infected with spruce bark beetle. Moreover, much development is now interspersed within these forests. These forests are highly susceptible to forest fires, which present a major threat to life and property. The municipalities of Anchorage and the Mat-Su Borough support full funding of an urban interface wild land fire prevention program in order to protect the lives and property within south-central Alaska.

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