

RESOLUTION 17-23

A RESOLUTION BY THE ALEUTIANS EAST BOROUGH ASSEMBLY IN SUPPORT OF THE CONTINUATION OF THE ESSENTIAL AIR SERVICE PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the Essential Air Service (EAS) Program is among the programs proposed for elimination in President Trump's proposed federal budget; and

WHEREAS, the EAS Program is critical to approximately 60 rural Alaskan communities; and

WHEREAS, all six Aleutians East Borough (AEB) communities are not connected by roads and rely heavily upon air service; and

WHEREAS, the EAS Program allows residents in the remote AEB communities of False Pass, King Cove and Akutan to travel for emergency reasons, medical appointments and business purposes; and

WHEREAS, the EAS Program allows airlines to bring in mail and freight that includes necessities such as prescription medicine for residents, parts and equipment to keep essential infrastructure operating, food, clothing and other items; and

WHEREAS, the EAS Program keeps the Borough communities connected to the rest of the world, serving as a critical link to the state and nationwide air transportation system; and

WHEREAS, eliminating the EAS Program would cause Borough communities such as False Pass, King Cove and Akutan to lack immediate and necessary access to life-sustaining necessities; and

WHEREAS, without EAS subsidies, regularly scheduled flights into many rural communities

would cease to exist and costs for flights transporting basic goods such as food, fuel and health care supplies would escalate; and

WHEREAS, without affordable air service, the only option for Aleutians East Borough communities that rely upon air carriers with EAS contracts would be charters, which can be far more expensive, putting low-income residents in a serious bind; and

WHEREAS, remote communities that rely upon the EAS Program, such as False Pass, King Cove and Akutan, would become even more isolated and removed from the Borough as well as the State of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the elimination of the Essential Air Service Program would have a devastating effect on the Borough communities that depend upon guaranteed air transportation.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Aleutians East Borough Assembly urges President Trump and Congress to allow the EAS Program to remain in the federal budget.

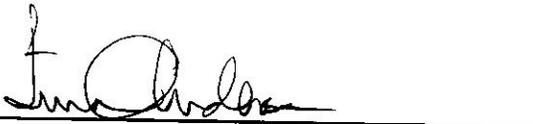
PASSED AND APPROVED by the Aleutians East Borough on this 11 day of

May, 2017.



Stanley Mack, Mayor

ATTEST:



Tina Anderson, Clerk