



RESOLUTION No. 17-07

A RESOLUTION OF THE ALEUTIANS EAST BOROUGH IDENTIFYING THE LACK OF ADEQUATE BROADBAND INTERNET SERVICE AT REASONABLE COST AND SUPPORTING EFFORTS TO OBTAIN GRANTS AND OTHER FUNDING AND COLLABORATE ON A REGIONAL SOLUTION TO BRING BROADBAND SERVICE TO THE ALEUTIAN AND PRIBILOF REGION TO MEET THE STANDARD FOR BANDWIDTH, SPEED, AND LATENCY ESTABLISHED BY THE STATEWIDE BROADBAND TASK FORCE.

WHEREAS, broadband internet service has become a necessary communication tool for service delivery and economic development; and

WHEREAS, the **Statewide Broadband Task Force (SBTF)** recommended in its 2014 A Blueprint for Alaska's Broadband Future a goal of connectivity at a minimum rate of 100 megabits per second (mps) for every Alaskan household by 2020; and

WHEREAS, the SBTF further set a goal of no more than 20 milliseconds of latency (delay) for broadband service for each Alaskan household; and

WHEREAS, present speeds are a fraction of the 100 mps recommended standard and far exceed the 20 millisecond latency rate in Southwest Alaska; and

WHEREAS, with today's technology the only way to obtain these SBTF goals is through a broadband delivery system based largely on a fiber optic network or a proposed constellation of low orbiting satellites that are designed to operate with greatly reduced latency; and

WHEREAS, challenging terrain, immense geographical separation from Alaska's population centers, and a widely dispersed population have made installation of the broadband infrastructure needed to provide internet service at the level recommended by the SBTF unattractive due to significant costs for private internet providers; and

WHEREAS, there are many examples in Alaska and in other parts of the country where public/private partnerships have been successful in constructing and operating broadband systems in remote areas with low population density; and

WHEREAS, numerous studies have documented how broadband service has ushered in advances in education, public safety, medical diagnoses and treatment, job training, job creation, business development and marketing, and many other facets of human endeavor; and

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WHEREAS, lack of adequate broadband service is negatively impacting economic growth, safety, quality of life, education, medical care, and job creation potential for Southwest Alaska; and

WHEREAS, broadband service is even more essential in areas like the Aleutian and Pribilof areas that are geographically remote; and

WHEREAS, broadband access and use needs to be affordable for lower income families and priced at levels roughly equal to service in Alaska's largest cities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Aleutians East Borough hereby recognizes the need for broadband service at affordable rates for the Aleutians East Borough and strongly encourages and supports a project to address this lack of a basic communication service; and

NOW BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Aleutians East Borough supports efforts of a coalition of nonprofit groups and government organizations representing various constituencies and regions of Southwest Alaska to seek grant funding from the U.S Economic Development Administration to look at all alternatives on how to bring affordable broadband service to Southwest Alaska within parameters recommended by the SBTF and determine how this new broadband infrastructure will be constructed, financed, and managed.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE ALEUTIANS EAST BOROUGH on this 17th day of October, 2016.

IN WITNESS THERETO:

By: Stanley Mack
Stanley Mack, Mayor

ATTEST: Tina Anderson
Tina Anderson, Borough Clerk