

RESOLUTION 19-49

A RESOLUTION OF THE ALEUTIANS EAST BOROUGH ASSEMBLY OPPOSING THE PROPOSED FY20 STATE SUBSIDY REDUCTION FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA

WHEREAS, a strong university system is integral to an environment of economic and business development; and

WHEREAS, the University of Alaska system provides a wide variety of course offerings with tuition rates that are competitive with other institutions of higher learning; and

WHEREAS, the University of Alaska is involved in key research and academic activities involving the Arctic, Alaska fisheries, and economic and business development; and

WHEREAS, the University of Alaska provides educational opportunities to Alaskans living in rural communities; and

WHEREAS, the rural University campuses are important resources for Aleutians East Borough residents and contribute toward economic and workforce development; and

WHEREAS, any State that wishes to claim it is open for business to diversify its economy must have a vibrant and distinguished University system to support advances in technology and innovation; and

WHEREAS, the University of Alaska has had to absorb \$246 million in cuts since 2015; and

WHEREAS, the Governor has proposed a reduction of \$134 million in the University of Alaska budget in his proposed FY20 budget; and

WHEREAS, University President Jim Johnson testified before the Senate Finance Committee says the University system has dealt with funding cuts in recent years by reducing its workforce by about 1,300 employees, has raised tuition by about 8 percent over the past five years, and reduced classes and programs; and


WHEREAS, Johnson further warned the Senate Finance Committee that cuts proposed by the Governor in his FY20 budget, if adopted, could push the university system into a self-perpetuating downward spiral of more layoffs, tuition hikes, and cutbacks in classes and programs; and

WHEREAS, it is unclear how these cuts will be allocated throughout the university system, but there is an overwhelming fear that rural campuses may be eliminated or severely restructured; and

WHEREAS, the Borough would like the State to fully support the University of Alaska and for the University to maintain the level of academic programming and research in which it is presently engaged and provided additional time to seek other revenue sources and cost containment measures that do not impact the quantity and quality of service it delivers.


NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Aleutians East Borough opposes the proposed FY20 State subsidy reduction for the University of Alaska.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Aleutians East Borough on this 14th day of March, 2019.



Alvin D. Osterback, Mayor

ATTEST:



Tina Anderson, Clerk