

CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA

RESOLUTION # 17-40

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA, CALLING ON THE ALASKA CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO SUPPORT CONTINUATION AND FULL FUNDING FOR RURAL COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS.

WHEREAS, the City of Valdez is located in the Prince William Sound region of Alaska and is within the Valdez-Cordova Census Area; and

WHEREAS, the City of Valdez economy is based in large part on recreational and commercial fishing; and

WHEREAS, the City of Valdez is a participating supporter of regional community and economic development through its participation and partnership with the Prince William Sound Economic Development District; and

WHEREAS, the City of Valdez works with the US Economic Development Administration (EDA), USDA-Rural Development, the US Forest Service, and numerous other federal and state agencies to foster sustainable community development; and

WHEREAS, the Prince William Sound region has an unemployment rate of 8.2 percent*, exceeding state and federal levels by more than three percentage points, coupled with a substantially higher cost of living; and

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska is in a prolonged period of economic recession that is projected to continue for several more years, resulting in a smaller state economy in the future; and

WHEREAS, the federal FY 2018 budget proposal titled “America First: A Budget Blueprint to Make America Great Again” recommends elimination of the EDA, USDA Rural Development, and other programs essential to rural community and economic development; and

WHEREAS, these programs have contributed to Prince William Sound communities and the regional economy through investments in common property fisheries, a fisheries business incubator, community facilities, port and harbor infrastructure, and encouragement of business development and resilience.

**2016 annualized unemployment rate according to the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section*

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA, that

Section 1. The City Council calls upon the Alaska Congressional Delegation to ensure the continuation of the EDA and USDA Rural Development, as well as the programs authorized by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act, the HUD Community Development Block Grant program, the Denali Commission, the Brownfields Program, rural transportation programs, and programs authorized under the current Farm Bill.

Section 2. The City Council urges the delegation to seek continued funding for these programs, to the degree practicable, at levels commensurate to federal FY 2017 funding.

Section 3. The City Council pledges to continue to work with these federal agency partners and programs to ensure a sustainable future for the City of Valdez, Alaska.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA, this 19th day of September, 2017.

CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA

Ruth E. Knight, Mayor

ATTEST:

Sheri L. Pierce, MMC, City Clerk