

**CITY OF WHITTIER, ALASKA**

**RESOLUTION #13-2017**

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

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

**WHEREAS**, the City of Whittier's economy is based in large part on recreational and commercial fishing; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Whittier 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 Whittier partners with the US Economic Development Administration (EDA), USDA-Rural Development, the US Forest Service, and numerous other federal and state agencies to advance our mission, stimulate job creation, encourage business formation and expansion, and 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 3 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 FFY2018 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** that the City Council of the City of Whittier, Alaska calls upon the Alaska Congressional Delegation to ensure the continuation of the EDA, USDA Rural Development, 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, and

**FURTHER**, urges the delegation to seek continuing funding for these programs, to the degree practicable, at levels commensurate to FFY2017 funding, and

**FURTHER**, pledges to continue to partner with these agencies and programs to ensure a sustainable future for the City of Whittier, Alaska.

**PASSED AND APPROVED** by a duly constituted quorum of the Whittier City Council on this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of August, 2017.

**ATTEST:**



**Naelene Matsumiya**  
**Acting City Clerk**



**Daniel Blair**  
**Mayor**

**Ayes: 7**  
**Nays: 0**  
**Absent: 0**  
**Abstain: 0**