



CITY OF BETHEL

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Introduced by: Mayor Phillips
Date: September 23, 1997
Action: Adopted
Vote: Unanimous

RESOLUTION #97-47

A RESOLUTION OF THE BETHEL CITY COUNCIL REGARDING THE PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAXES (PILT) PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996 allows the cities in Alaska's unorganized borough to receive a PILT payment based upon the location of eligible federal lands within their respective areas; and

WHEREAS, the newly amended federal PILT law specifically provides that the cities may use the monies received for any governmental purpose; and

WHEREAS, the intent of Senator Stevens in proposing the amendment to the federal PILT law was that PILT monies should supplement, not replace, funding currently provided to Alaska's rural communities; and

WHEREAS, the City of Bethel, Alaska collects a 5% general sales tax and a 5% alcohol use tax, which generate 70% of the city's general fund revenues; and

WHEREAS, the City of Bethel, Alaska provides essential public safety services such as police and fire protection, and in Fiscal Year 1997 allocated a full 50% of general fund revenues towards public safety services; and

WHEREAS, the 1997 fisheries disaster in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta will most likely result in reduced raw fish taxes and city sales tax collections; impeding the City's ability to improve its delivery of services and proceed with long-needed capital improvements.

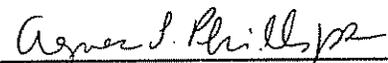
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of Bethel, Alaska respectfully requests the Alaska State Legislature to approve the release of PILT funds to the cities in the unorganized borough; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council of Bethel, Alaska, is grateful to Governor Knowles and his staff for their efforts to secure the release of said PILT funds.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 23RD DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 1997.

ATTEST:


L.J. Warren, City Clerk


Agnes L. Phillips, Mayor