



CITY OF BETHEL

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Presented by: Mayor Phillips
Date: March 24, 1998
Action: Passed
Vote: Unanimous

RESOLUTION #98-09

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF BETHEL, ALASKA, OPPOSING SENATE BILL 36, PUBLIC SCHOOL FUNDING.

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 36 relates to public schools; the definition of a school district, the transportation of students, the employment of chief school administrators, the school district layoff plans, the special education service agency, and the child care grant program; and provides for an effective date, and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 36 seeks to strip millions of dollars from the Lower Kuskokwim School District over the next three years, and

WHEREAS, the people of this area believe there are other alternatives available to the State, to provide for public school funding, and

WHEREAS, the future of this region is dependant upon the education of the its children, who need and require the same level of basic education services afforded to all Alaskans, and

WHEREAS, the Lower Kuskokwim River Delta Region, as well as many other rural Alaskan regions, lack the economic infrastructure and economic base to bear the burden of any additional tax to finance basic education and other basic human services, and

WHEREAS, such a measure would cripple regions such as the Lower Kuskokwim River Delta Region, already experiencing economic hardship from recent fishing industry failures, and

WHEREAS, passage of this bill will halt the tremendous academic progress of the children living in rural Alaska in the basic areas of education, and will eliminate school programs designed to continue the language and culture of the region, and

WHEREAS, the rural school districts are working diligently and successfully to support and assist in this process of providing quality education.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of Bethel, Alaska, adamantly opposes passage of Senate Bill 36 by the Alaska State Legislature.

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Date: March 24, 1998
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PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 24TH DAY OF MARCH, 1998.

ATTEST:

Laurie J. Walters
Laurie J. Walters, Acting City Clerk

Agnès L. Phillips
Agnès L. Phillips, Mayor