

Introduced by: Council Member Berger
Date: May 27, 2003
Action: Adopted
Vote: Unanimous

CITY OF BETHEL, ALASKA

Resolution #03-19

A RESOLUTION OF THE BETHEL CITY COUNCIL REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA) TO LOCALLY MAINTAIN AND GIVE SUPPORT TO LOCAL HIRE OF ALL FEDERAL JOB POSITIONS CURRENTLY BASED IN THE USDA BETHEL FIELD OFFICE

WHEREAS, The Bethel City Council recognizes the importance of every federal employee position designated for our region, and;

WHEREAS, To better serve the residents of Bethel and surrounding villages with USDA programs and services, the United States Department of Agriculture opened their new field office in Bethel in July 2001, and;

WHEREAS, During the past twenty-one months federal positions assigned to the USDA Field Office have been filled in part by local residents, and;

WHEREAS, The availability of every federal job assigned in our community strengthens the local economy and provides for additional spending that circulates throughout our local businesses and service industries, thus benefiting all local residents, accordingly the loss of any federal position assigned to our region is detrimental to the condition of our local economy, and;

WHEREAS, For several years low salmon returns have adversely affected the livelihoods of over 800 commercial salmon permit holders on the Kuskokwim river, due to their large representation of private sector employment in our region, the result has been a negative impact to our business community, and;

WHEREAS, The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service currently has a vacancy announcement proposing to relocate their Resource Conservation & Development Coordinator position from Bethel to Anchorage, requiring the employee to travel to Bethel for two weeks every month, citing the lack of local housing in Bethel as the reason for this action. At the same time the USDA Rural Development program has an open vacancy for their Rural Development Manager, this position continues to be advertised with the duty location in Bethel, and;

WHEREAS, The loss of any job position from our community is detrimental to local residents and strikes a blow to further hinder our local economy.

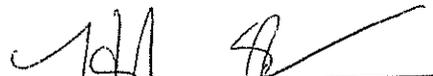
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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City Council of Bethel is supportive of the USDA Bethel Field Office and its efforts to improve the service delivery of the USDA in our area.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the City Council of Bethel requests the supervisory personnel of the United States Department of Agriculture to review the decision to move the aforementioned Coordinator position from Bethel to Anchorage and to renew their efforts to obtain available housing in Bethel for this position, recognizing that through the hiring of a qualified local candidate, services can be appropriately and effectively provided in Bethel, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Honorable Ann M. Veneman, US Secretary of Agriculture; Honorable Ted Stevens; Honorable Lisa Murkowski and Honor Don Young for their information and support.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 27th DAY OF MAY, by a unanimous voice vote.



Hugh Short, Jr., Mayor

ATTEST:



Janette Persinger, City Clerk