

Introduced by: Mayor Leinberger
Introduction Date: February 27, 2007
Action: Passed
Vote: 7-0

CITY OF BETHEL, ALASKA

Resolution #07-07

A RESOLUTION OPPOSING SB 34 OF THE ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE WHICH WOULD IMPLEMENT A HEAD TAX ON INDIVIDUALS RESIDING IN REGIONAL EDUCATIONAL ATTENDANCE AREAS

WHEREAS, the citizens of the City of Bethel, Alaska reside in a Regional Educational Attendance Area;

WHEREAS, a significant amount of money is paid to the State of Alaska from the United States Government because of the large amount of land holdings of the Federal Government;

WHEREAS, contrary to a popular belief that the residents of the City of Bethel do not pay taxes, when in fact there is a 5% sales tax on all commercial transactions and said tax is the approximate equivalent to a property tax mill levy of 54 mils;

WHEREAS, similar to other communities in Western Alaska, citizens of the City of Bethel pay the highest prices in Alaska for basic and essential services such as food, clothing, heating fuel, electricity, water, sewer service, and other life sustaining commodities;

WHEREAS, citizens reside in Bush Alaska because it is important to the economy and well being of the entire State in order to provide critical services to Native Alaskans who have dwelled upon this land for countless generations and desire to remain on these lands of their inheritance;

WHEREAS, citizens in the Bethel & Wade Hampton census areas have had the highest rate of unemployment, the highest rate of poverty, and the lowest per-capita income.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Bethel is hereby opposed to the proposed legislation that is known as SB 34 and encourages the Legislature of the State of Alaska to defeat SB 34 as it will cause an additional financial hardship on the citizens of the City of Bethel and rural Alaska.

Introduced by: Mayor Leinberger
Introduction Date: February 27, 2007
Action: Passed
Vote: 7-0

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Sarah Palin, Governor of Alaska; the Honorable Sean Parnell, Lieutenant Governor of Alaska; the Alaska House of Representatives; the Alaska State Senate; and Paul Richards, City of Bethel Lobbyist.

ENACTED THIS 27th DAY OF FEBRUARY 2007 BY A VOTE OF 7 IN FAVOR AND 0 OPPOSED.



Daniel C. Leinberger, Mayor

ATTEST:



Sandra Modigh, City Clerk