



CITY OF BETHEL

P.O. Box 388 Bethel, Alaska 99559
907-543-2297
FAX # 543-4171

Introduced by: Mayor Phillips
Date: February 24, 1998
Action: Adopted
Vote: Unanimous

RESOLUTION #98-05

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 specifically provides that the cities may use these monies received for any governmental purpose; and

WHEREAS, the City of Bethel received \$203,000 in federal PILT funds in 1997, and these funds were used for vital equipment and projects, including new police vehicles, repairs to the City's only youth recreation facility, essential safety equipment for the public works department, public road improvements, and other capital projects; and

WHEREAS, the City of Bethel, Alaska collects a 5% general sales tax, a 5% alcohol use tax, and a 3% transient lodging business tax, which generate over 70% of the city's general fund revenues, and in addition, the City has increased motor vehicle registration fees and is considering a road use tax, all in an effort to raise funds locally for public services; and

WHEREAS, the City of Bethel provides essential public safety services including fully-staffed Police and Fire Departments, and allocates at least 50% of general fund revenues towards public safety services; and

WHEREAS, the finance sub-committee substitute for House Bill 86 and Senate Bill 62 proposes to divert PILT monies destined for cities in the unorganized borough to the Department of Public Safety for Village Public Safety Officers, with the intent of reducing the State's general fund expenses for Village Public Safety Officers; and

WHEREAS, the intent of Senator Stevens in proposing the amendment to the federal PILT law was that PILT monies should supplement, not replace, State funding currently provided to Alaska's rural communities, and the proposed diversion of PILT funds is an attempt to balance the State's general fund budget on the backs of bush Alaskans.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of Bethel, Alaska supports the continued disbursement of PILT funds to the cities in the unorganized borough, and is opposed to any proposal to divert PILT funds to pay for Village Public Safety Officers

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 24TH DAY OF FEBRUARY 1998, by a vote of 7 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstaining

[SEAL]

ATTEST:

LJ Warren
LJ Warren, City Clerk

Agnès L. Phillips
Agnès L. Phillips, Mayor