

Introduced by: City Manager  
Date August 29, 2000  
Action: Adopted  
Vote: Unanimous

## ***CITY OF BETHEL, ALASKA***

### **RESOLUTION #00-20**

#### **A RESOLUTION OPPOSING A STATEWIDE PROPERTY TAX CAP**

**WHEREAS**, the initiative takes away local voter control. This is a key local taxpayer control issue because people in one part of the state should not be allowed to set mill rates for people in other municipalities.

**WHEREAS**, local property tax mill rates have historically been a decision left to local communities.

**WHEREAS**, this initiative would eliminate local determination of appropriate taxing levels for the individual communities.

**WHEREAS**, this initiative would create dissension between urban and rural areas, as the Alaska Legislature is dominated by representatives and senators from the Railbelt who may seek funding for their respective impacted communities by siphoning off dollars targeted for rural communities/programs if the passage of this initiative comes to fruition,

**WHEREAS**, the potential ill effects of this initiative are greatly exacerbated by:

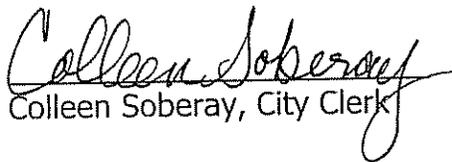
- 1) reductions in state funding for Safe Communities/State Revenue Sharing in 1999 and 2000, where, in many villages of Alaska the Revenue Sharing Program is the only state funding source.
- 2) the difficulty of imposing a sales tax in Anchorage to make up for loss of property tax revenue as a consequence of passage of a 1988 citizen initiative in Anchorage to require a super majority (60 percent) of the voters to approve a sales tax.

**WHEREAS**, the initiative would have a direct impact on school funding in rural Alaska if there was a funding crisis in urban Alaska, and could effectively halt urban school and other bond construction, that would even more, effectively halt the funding of new school construction/major maintenance projects in REAAs throughout rural Alaska.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the City Council of Bethel, Alaska, urges the Lower Kuskokwim School District, the Association of Village Council Presidents, the Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation, and other rural communities throughout the state to undertake a serious examination of the potential impact this initiative could have on their citizens and communities and to make their voices heard.

**PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 29<sup>th</sup> DAY OF AUGUST 2000, by a vote of 5 in favor and 0 opposed.**

ATTEST:

  
Colleen Soberay, City Clerk

  
Mike O'Brien, Mayor