

Introduced by: Vice-Mayor Middlebrook
Date: April 13, 2010
Action: Passed
Vote: 7-0

CITY OF BETHEL, ALASKA

Resolution # 10-29

SUPPORTING A FEDERAL CHANGE IN REGULATIONS FOR TRANSPORTATION IN COMMERCE OF CYLINDERS OF COMPRESSED OXYGEN AND OXIDIZING GASES WITHOUT RIGID OUTER PACKAGING [49 CFR, Part 173.302 (f)]

WHEREAS, on September 28, 2007, the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) published a final rule for Transportation of Compressed Oxygen, Other Oxidizing Gases and Chemical Oxygen Generators on Aircraft,

WHEREAS, when in effect, this requires special packaging for oxygen being transported by air;

WHEREAS, many areas of Alaska are operating under a special permit which authorizes the transportation in commerce of cylinders of compressed oxygen and oxidizing gases without rigid outer packaging when no other means of transportation exists ,however that is a special permit and may eventually expire;

WHEREAS, approximately 4,000 cylinders a month are being shipped through air cargo to rural clinics, hospitals, patients and EMS services;

WHEREAS, with an expected life span of 100 trips each, the packaging restriction for these items are expensive, costing approximately \$2,240 per bottle, they are also very heavy and bulky weighing up to 55lbs each;

WHEREAS, not only is there increased shipping cost, there are concerns that the smaller aircrafts, serving the rural communities, may not be adequate in size to support the large containers;

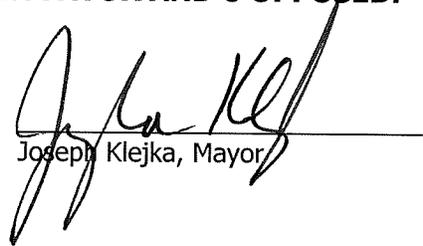
WHEREAS, with so many rural communities located off the road system this regulation provides a unique hardship to the medical industry in Alaska;

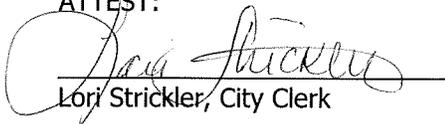
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WHEREAS, if the regulation is not modified or, if a permanent variance to transport cylinders of compressed oxygen and oxidizing gasses without rigid outer packaging, is not issued, or the regulation is not changed, there will be financial and medical hardships placed upon much of Alaska;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the City of Bethel requests a change in 49 CFR, Part 173.302 (f) or a permanent variance to be issued to allow for the transportation of compressed oxygen and oxidizing gasses without rigid outer packaging.

ENACTED THIS 13 DAY OF APRIL 2010 BY A VOTE OF 7 IN FAVOR AND 0 OPPOSED.


Joseph Klejka, Mayor

ATTEST:

Lori Strickler, City Clerk