CITY OF BETHEL

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Presented by: City Manager Hunter
Date: December 13, 1994
Action: Passed
Vote: 6-Yes, 0-No

RESOLUTION #94-43

A RESOLUTION OF THE BETHEL CITY COUNCIL OPPOSING UNFUNDED FEDERAL MANDATES AND CALLING UPON PRESIDENT CLINTON AND THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES TO REFRAIN FROM PASSING SUCH MANDATES WITHOUT ADEQUATE FUNDING IN THE FUTURE

WHEREAS, unfunded federal mandates on state and local governments have increased significantly in recent years; and

WHEREAS, three-quarters of the mandates imposed on local governments by Congress have been imposed in the last twenty years, often with the promise of financial support for the costs of compliance; and

WHEREAS, federal mandates require local governments to perform duties without consideration of local circumstances or capacity; and

WHEREAS, federal mandates require compliance regardless of other pressing local needs and priorities affecting the health, welfare and safety of municipal citizens; and

WHEREAS, excessive federal burdens on local governments force some combination of higher local taxes and fees or reduce local services to citizens and local taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, federal mandates are too often inflexible, "one-size-fits-all" requirements that impose unrealistic time frames and specify procedures or facilities when less costly alternatives might be just as effective; and

WHEREAS, the inflexibility of federal mandates, lack of applicability to local situations, and excessive cost are particular problems in Alaska; and

WHEREAS, existing mandates impose harsh pressure on local budgets and the federal government has imposed a freeze upon funding to help compensate for any new mandates; and

WHEREAS, the effect of statutory mandates is often worsened by regulations, administrative rules and court decisions; and

WHEREAS, the cumulative effect of these legislative and regulatory actions has a direct negative impact on the citizens of Alaska's municipalities; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Municipal League, National League of Cities, National Association of Counties, International City/County Management Association and other groups of state and local government representatives have begun a national public education campaign to help citizens understand and then reduce the burden and inflexibility of unfunded mandates; and

WHEREAS, some Congressional leaders are beginning to understand the burden placed on local governments by unfunded federal mandates, but no legislation has yet passed to limit such mandates.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of Bethel, Alaska, urges President Clinton, the congress of the United States an the judiciary to declare and honor a halt to further federal mandates, whether by statute, judicial fiat or administrative regulation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council of Bethel, Alaska, shall work with members of the Alaskan Congressional delegation to inform them about the impact of federal mandates and actions necessary to reduce their burden on Alaskan citizens.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council of Bethel, Alaska, urges each municipal official to help inform the public as well as state and federal elected and appointed officials about the burden placed on Alaskan local governments by unfunded federal mandates.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 13TH DAY OF DECEMBER, 1994.

Allan Wintersteen, Mayor

ATTEST:

Connie Tucker, City Clerk