

Introduced by: Glick,
Brown, Scalzi
Date: 02/15/94
Action: Adopted
Vote: Unanimous

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH
RESOLUTION 94-17

**A RESOLUTION REGARDING CUTBACKS IN STATE PROGRAMS
THAT AFFECT MUNICIPALITIES**

WHEREAS, the majority of taxable resources within the State of Alaska are held in public ownership, thus giving the State of Alaska an opportunity to collect revenue directly from those that use the resources and limiting the revenue base of local taxing units; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska State Legislature has, over the years since Alaska became a state, established a large number of programs to provide support and benefits for Alaska's citizens; and

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska has also established programs that share the revenues from the state's commonly held resources with local governments and community organizations to enable them to provide needed services at the local level, where local priorities and needs are most evident; and

WHEREAS, since Alaska is a young state and its infrastructure was, and continues to be, relatively undeveloped, the state government has provided substantial amounts of funding from resource revenues to develop that infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, since Statehood state government has developed and funded a number of programs that Alaska's citizens have come to depend on; and

WHEREAS, with declining revenues from resources and increasing overall costs of the operation of state government, the Alaska Legislature has reduced funding for a number of these programs; and

WHEREAS, cutbacks of over 50 percent since FY 1985 in funding for State Revenue Sharing and Municipal Assistance, the programs of direct municipal aid that help local governments to provide public safety, sanitation, transportation, and education services to Alaska's citizens, have hurt municipalities by forcing cuts in public services and increases in local taxes; and

WHEREAS, the State Legislature has also cut funding for a number of other programs, including mandated programs such as the senior citizen/disabled veteran property tax exemption program, which now costs local governments and their taxpayers over \$15 million per year; and

WHEREAS, cuts in funding for such programs as land conveyance processing and oil and gas property tax assessing have forced local governments to pay fees for these state services, and cutbacks in funding for senior citizen and day care services have put additional pressure on local resources; and

WHEREAS, the state government has abandoned its responsibilities in many areas and severely underfunded other programs originally established to help Alaskan citizens, for instance adequate support for harbors, airports, and road maintenance, the local service roads and trails program, fish and game enforcement, the recorder's offices, resource development activities, and library services to remote areas; and

WHEREAS, the cumulative effect of these cutbacks on local governments and their fiscal situation has not been considered, but is significant and growing;

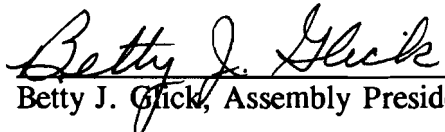
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH ASSEMBLY:

SECTION 1. That the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly calls upon the Alaska State Legislature and the Executive Branch, under the leadership of Governor Walter J. Hickel, to take into account the cumulative effect on municipal governments of past and anticipated cutbacks in state programs when making budget decisions.

SECTION 2. That the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly urges the legislative and executive branches of state government to consider eliminating programs that are not considered a priority at the state level and for which funding is no longer available so that Alaska's local governments are not forced to absorb the costs of all such programs.

SECTION 3. That copies of this resolution be sent to Governor Walter J. Hickel, Senators Suzanne Little, Judith Salo, Fred Zharoff, and Georgianna Lincoln, and Representatives Gail Phillips, Mike Navarre, Gary Davis, Cliff Davidson, and Irene Nicholia.

ADOPTED BY THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH ASSEMBLY THIS 15th DAY OF FEBRUARY, 1994.


Betty J. Glick, Assembly President

ATTEST:


Gaye J. Vaughan, Borough Clerk