

A RESOLUTION ON RESPONSIBLE RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT IN ALASKA

WHEREAS, the Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce actively supports the development and balanced management of Alaska's natural resources including energy resources, minerals, forestry, wildlife and agriculture, while protecting Alaska for future generations; and

WHEREAS, when Congress agreed to statehood for Alaska in 1959, it recognized Alaska would have to develop its resources to support the population of the state, spread out through a geographically diverse and large area. Article 8 of Alaska's Constitution requires the resources of the state to be developed and managed for the maximum benefit of all Alaskans; and

WHEREAS, an overwhelming majority of Alaskans support the responsible development of oil and gas resources, timber resources, mineral resources, and fisheries resources because of the local and statewide economic benefit; and

WHEREAS, the Fairbanks Chamber recognizes that sustainable resource production is not just a buzzword; it is the only acceptable way to do business. To be successful, businesses must benefit both current and future Alaskans beyond providing good jobs. Our members continually and consistently demonstrate a commitment to working safely, attaining globally-accepted sustainability goals, and making a positive, lasting contribution to society; and

WHEREAS, the United States and the State of Alaska have the strictest air, water, and environmental permitting standards and protections in the world. Furthermore, the United States is leading the world in the development and deployment of technology aimed at reducing environmental impact; and

WHEREAS, Alaska exercises enhanced due diligence for arctic oil projects to ensure companies are adequately prepared for harsh operating conditions, sea ice, permafrost coverage, potential impacts to natural habitats for endangered species, and that companies deploy production methods that cause minimal interference with the unique subsistence livelihoods of indigenous peoples; and

WHEREAS, the University of Alaska Fairbanks is a world-class public research university that partners with the State of Alaska and the natural resources industries on research projects intended to improve the safety of natural resource production methods in the Arctic and produces a highly-trained workforce with the necessary skills to conduct this work with the highest standards; and

WHEREAS, when development of resources does not occur in locations with strict standards, the environment suffers more damage in terms of emissions, unmitigated wetlands impacts, water quality damage, and remediation requirements, than would otherwise occur if responsible development of that same resource occurred in Alaska; and

WHEREAS, building renewable energy infrastructure, such as rechargeable batteries and energy-efficient lighting, requires large amounts of copper and rare earth metals; and

WHEREAS, Alaska is strategically located, with proven deposits of copper and rare earth metals, to provide a stable domestic supply for these environmentally-friendly industries and other technology demanded by the world's growing population; and

WHEREAS, the data is clear that a lack of jobs and economic activity produces negative health and social outcomes, while the quality of life for remote communities is enhanced by responsible resource development which creates jobs and indirect local economic activity; and

WHEREAS, the Fairbanks Chamber represents over 650 member organizations from every economic sector of Interior Alaska which will continue to be impacted directly and indirectly by the over 100,000 jobs created by resource development in the state; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce supports the responsible development of Alaska's natural resources, for the benefit of Alaskans and our nation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce urges investors to recognize that investing in Alaska's natural resources compliments efforts to promote wise environmental stewardship and to protect the environment; and



ADVOCATE. PROMOTE. DEVELOP.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce urges the President of the United States and the United States Congress to assist and partner with the State of Alaska in the responsible development of the natural resources of Alaska.

Resolution passed unanimously on April 17, 2020 by the Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors.