

**CITY OF SELDOVIA
RESOLUTION 19-17**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SELDOVIA, ALASKA
REQUESTING THE ALASKA LEGISLATURE TO ACT ON BEHALF OF THE
COMMUNITIES OF ALASKA TO PASS A FAIR BUDGET THAT WILL NOT PLACE
SUCH AN ENORMOUS BURDEN TO FUND ESSENTIAL SERVICES ON LOCAL
BOROUGH AND MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENTS, AND TO THE DETRIMENT OF
ALASKA'S SMALL RURAL COMMUNITIES- *Amended***

WHEREAS In February, 2019 the Governor of Alaska, Michael J. Dunleavy, proposed an FY20 State of Alaska Budget that included substantial cuts across state funding in order to close a 1.6 billion dollar deficit; and

WHEREAS the proposed budget puts the burden on local and borough and municipal governments to fund necessary services being cut; and

WHEREAS 55% of the State of Alaska's 162 municipalities have a population of less than 500 residents, including the City of Seldovia; and

WHEREAS the proposed budget will cut the Alaska Marine Highway funding by 75%; and

WHEREAS the City of Seldovia is one community among 86% of the State of Alaska communities that are not connected to the road system; and

WHEREAS the Alaska Marine Highway system has been operating year-round since 1963, providing regular scheduled passenger and vehicle service to over 30 communities in Alaska, many of which are not accessible via the road system; and

WHEREAS the City of Seldovia is one among many other small rural communities that depend on the Alaska Marine Highway for employment, transportation, groceries, supplies, and their connection to the rest of the State of Alaska that cannot be readily reached without the assistance of boats or planes; and

WHEREAS the State of Alaska's K-12 education formula will be cut \$303 million dollars in the proposed budget, a \$20.9 million dollar cut to the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District and a direct impact to all the schools they fund, including the City of Seldovia's only school, Susan B. English School, K-12; and

WHEREAS the proposed budget eliminates the State of Alaska Senior Benefits program and severely diminishes the Medicaid program, eliminating needed services that municipalities, including the City of Seldovia, provide for their aging population and Medicaid benefit recipients; and

WHEREAS the proposed budget cuts 11.5% from the Public Safety Budget, potentially diminishing funding received by small municipalities, including the City of Seldovia, in order to

facilitate public safety for the entire community, including those who reside outside of city limits, in a community that is not readily accessible by the Alaska State Troopers; and

WHEREAS the City of Seldovia recognizes that Governor Dunleavy's FY20 proposed budget for the State of Alaska impacts the entire state and asks for recognition that the proposed cuts put the burden of necessary services on local borough and municipal governments, potentially diminishing small rural communities to the point of detriment; and

WHEREAS the City of Seldovia is committed to working together with the State of Alaska and its leaders to find a joint solution that may include consideration of a broad-based tax structure to address the state's fiscal challenge where the impacts will not be cost shifting to local borough and municipal governments.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The City Council of the City of Seldovia, requests the Alaska Legislature to act on behalf of the communities of Alaska to pass a fair budget that does not place such an enormous burden to fund essential services on local borough and municipal governments, and to the detriment of Alaska's small rural communities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT: copies of this resolution be sent to U.S. Senator Lisa Murkowski, U.S. Senator Dan Sullivan, U.S. Congressman Don Young, Alaska Governor Dunleavy, Alaska Senator Peter Micciche, Alaska Senator Gary Stevens, Alaska Representative Gary Knopp, Alaska Representative Sarah Vance, Alaska Representative Ben Carpenter, and Alaska Representative Louise Stutes.

PASSED AND APPROVED by a duly constituted quorum of the City Council of the City of Seldovia on this 11th day of March, 2019

ATTEST:



Heidi Geagel, City Clerk

APPROVED:



Dean Lent, Mayor

