

**Board of Directors, Anchorage Chamber of Commerce  
In Support of Economic Growth and Long-Term Fiscal Stability  
Resolution 2002/03-20**

WHEREAS, the mission of the Anchorage Chamber of Commerce is to “be effective as a business leader by supporting and focusing our broad-based membership in their efforts to grow Anchorage into a Premier American City”; and

WHEREAS, the health of Anchorage’s economy is significantly tied to the stability of the State of Alaska’s revenues and spending; and

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska has continued to spend more money than it brings into the general fund each year, resulting in increasing expenditures from the State’s Constitutional Budget Reserve Fund; and

WHEREAS, the State’s financial instability has caused declines in support to education, economic development and other programs that are critical to Anchorage’s ability to diversify its economy and increase its economic wealth; and

WHEREAS any vision of Alaska’s future and corresponding fiscal plan will require a supportive physical and workforce infrastructure; and

WHEREAS education, both k-12 and university, constitute the major components of the preparation and expansion of the workforce infrastructure;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of the Anchorage Chamber of Commerce that the Board urges the Governor and Legislature to jointly develop and implement a strategy that will provide fiscal certainty for Alaska’s economy and future by matching spending and recurring revenues, guided by a clear vision of what is to be achieved and how; and

AND FURTHER RESOLVED that the Anchorage Chamber of Commerce encourages the Governor and Legislature to incorporate the following elements into the long-term strategy; and

- Evaluate the effectiveness of state services within a government framework,
  - eliminate those that are inadequate, ineffective or inefficient, and
  - invest in programs that are designed to increase the diversity of Alaska’s economy and enhance the competitiveness of Alaska businesses so they can successfully compete in Alaska and other markets;
- Contract with Alaska’s private sector for the delivery of appropriate state services in instances where savings can be realized and/or increased productivity achieved;
- Continue to work with all state agencies to develop and implement programs that encourage maximizing purchases from Alaska-based vendors;
- Recognize that Alaska’s fiscal situation is not being solved by shifting governmental costs and responsibilities from the State to the school districts and municipalities;

AND FURTHER RESOLVED that after an appropriate level of effective state services has been

established, identify sufficient revenues to support government services over the long term; all potential revenue enhancement programs should be evaluated in terms of their impact on Alaska's long-term economic growth, and new revenues should be used in the following order:

1. Use a portion of the current Permanent Fund earnings,
2. Maintain an appropriate balance in the Constitutional Budget Reserve Fund and use it as a "shock absorber" against oil price fluctuations,
3. Use debt, as appropriate, to finance the State's infrastructure needs on a long-term, systematic basis, and
4. After acting under 1 – 3 above, implement broad-based consumption taxes and/or income taxes that are fair, equitable, and encourage economic development;

AND FURTHER RESOLVED that the Anchorage Chamber of Commerce urges the Governor and his administration to collaborate with the efforts of local communities to develop and implement long-term economic development initiatives like those in "Vision Anchorage";

AND FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature appropriate sufficient funds to education and to the University of Alaska to cover their inflation increases while such a fiscal plan is being crafted.

AND FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be sent to the Governor, all members of the Legislature, the Anchorage Mayor and Assemblymembers, the Alaska State Chamber of Commerce, other local chambers of commerce; and Statewide media.

APPROVED April 25, 2003



George Vakalis, 2002-2003 Chair



Stacy Schubert, President