

**BALLOT MEASURE 2: AN INITIATIVE TO MOVE THE MEETING PLACE  
OF THE ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE  
FROM JUNEAU TO THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH**

**RECOMMENDATION TO THE ANCHORAGE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**by the**

**STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**October 3, 2002**

The State and Local Government Affairs Committee of the Anchorage Chamber of Commerce has reviewed materials in favor of and in opposition to the Initiative appearing as Ballot Measure 2 on the November 5, 2002 general election ballot that, if approved, would move the meeting place of the Alaska State Legislature from Juneau to a location in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, and to Anchorage on an interim basis if an appropriate Mat-Su location is not immediately available.

The SALGA Committee believes it is unnecessary to develop a full Issue Paper to brief the Chamber Board of Directors on the pros and cons of the Initiative since moving the state capital has been an issue in which the Anchorage Chamber has been involved since Statehood.

At its meeting on October 3, 2002, the SALGA Committee agreed without dissent to recommend that the Chamber Board of Directors adopt a resolution substantially like the following one opposing Ballot Measure 2, the "Move the Legislature" Initiative:

**Board of Directors, Anchorage Chamber of Commerce  
Resolution 2002/03-\_\_  
Against Ballot Measure 2 on the November 5, 2002 Ballot  
(Initiative to Move the Meeting Place of the Legislature)**

WHEREAS, Ballot Measure 2 on the November 5, 2002 general election ballot is an Initiative that would, if approved, move the meeting place of the Alaska State Legislature from Juneau to a location in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, and to Anchorage on an interim basis if a location in the Mat-Su is not immediately available; and

WHEREAS, the Anchorage Chamber has long advocated moving the state capital from Juneau to a location that is reasonably accessible by road for the majority of the population;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of the Anchorage Chamber of Commerce that the Board reaffirms its longstanding support for moving the state capital from Juneau to a location that is reasonably accessible by road for the majority of the state population, provided the move is planned and done in an orderly and efficient fashion, in a manner that will not materially worsen the state fiscal gap, and with the prior approval of the relocation plan by a vote of the people of Alaska;

BUT BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, HOWEVER, that the Board of Directors of the Anchorage Chamber of Commerce finds Ballot Measure 2 to be defective, wasteful, ill-conceived, ill-advised and undesirable for the following reasons:

- A. the Initiative would only move the meeting place of the legislature, and falls short of moving the state capital itself; it will be costly, wasteful and ineffective to have the chief officials of the Executive Branch located in a state “capital” in Juneau while the Legislative Branch is meeting in Anchorage or the Matanuska-Susitna Borough and deliberating legislation affecting the Executive agencies’ programs, operations, personnel and budgets;
- B. even if moving the legislature were tantamount to moving the state capital, Ballot Measure 2 would likely end up moving it twice — once to Anchorage on an interim basis if no “suitable” meeting place for the legislature already exists in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, and a second time to a permanent location in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough once a suitable meeting place for the legislature has been built there — which is an extravagance that Alaska can ill afford in light of its present fiscal condition;
- C the Initiative does not specify what criteria are to be used to determine whether a potential meeting place for the legislature is “suitable” or not, so not only is it impossible to know whether such a meeting place already exists in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, but it is also impossible to be sure that such a meeting place exists even in Anchorage; it is a powerful indictment of the Initiative that it is so incomplete and poorly planned that something like the question of whether or not a suitable meeting place for the legislature even exists in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough still remains unknown, despite the central and fundamental importance of this question for the Initiative; and
- D. the Initiative would repeal the existing requirements to have a plan for moving the state capital and to submit the estimated costs of that move to the voters for approval before the move is undertaken, and in so repealing this existing law, the Initiative would effectively authorize a blank check for moving the state capital even if the capital move were planned and carried out as poorly, incompletely and wastefully as the move-the-legislature Initiative itself;

AND FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Anchorage Chamber of Commerce opposes Ballot Measure 2 appearing on the ballot in the general election on November 5, 2002, recommends that Chamber members vote “no” on that Measure, and will inform the Chamber’s membership of this Resolution, and of the Board’s reasons for adopting it;

AND FURTHER RESOLVED that the Anchorage Chamber of Commerce will issue a press release and public announcement of this Resolution, and send copies of it to the other chambers of commerce in Alaska and to the press.

DATED \_\_\_\_\_, 2002

