



**RESOLUTION 2011 - 05**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE SOUTHWEST ALASKA MUNICIPAL CONFERENCE RECOGNIZING  
AND SUPPORTING THE FORMATION OF AN ALASKA FOOD POLICY COUNCIL.**

**WHEREAS**, agriculture and fisheries are critically important industries to the State of Alaska, with fisheries having particular economic significance in the Southwest; and

**WHEREAS**, Alaskans spend \$2.6 billion annually on food, but in 2007 only 1.3% of this figure was spent on agricultural products from Alaska. \$2.5 billion of our "food dollars" are exported annually to the lower 48. Keeping a higher percentage of consumer spending in Alaska will help drive economic development in our agriculture industry; and

**WHEREAS**, Alaska's food supply is vulnerable and dependant on a food distribution system that has been disrupted in the past and is likely to be again in the future; and

**WHEREAS**, many Alaska families face hunger, and serious health problems, such as obesity and diabetes and lack access to affordable, fresh, nutritious food, especially for children; and

**WHEREAS**, increasing local food production and local consumption of Alaskan fish and farm products promotes Alaskans' health, increases food security, strengthens the local economy, encourages community development, and protects natural resources; and

**WHEREAS**, currently 20 other states in the US have established Food Policy Councils to address broad issues and policies around agriculture and natural resources, such as land use, economic development, and food systems planning to improve communities' capacity to meet their own food needs and encourage healthy eating.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference supports the establishment of an Alaska Food Policy Council to bring together the diverse array of food security, safety and access stakeholders in a coordinated effort to identify policies and environmental changes to build a strong, sustainable food system in Alaska; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference encourages the Alaska Food Policy Council to work collaboratively to enhance the access, availability, affordability and quality of food for all Alaskans; and

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**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference encourages the Alaska Food Policy Council to identify new or expanded economic opportunities for Alaskans through new food production, food processing, and food distribution businesses; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference encourages federal, state and local agencies to participate actively with the Alaska Food Policy Council to review existing or proposed programs, policies and regulations that affect the food system and recommend to policy makers means for improved coordination or implementation of programs, policies or regulations.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by a duly constituted quorum of the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference Membership this 11<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2011.

Signed:

Attest:



Alice Ruby, President



Andy Varner, Executive Director