Presented by: The Manager Introduced: 12/08/2003 Drafted by: J.W. Hartle

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA

Serial No. 2242

A Resolution Expressing Assembly Support For Federal Legislation Establishing a Coordinated Statewide Avalanche Protection Program.

WHEREAS, Alaska loses more people every year to avalanches than any other state, regardless of population; and

WHEREAS, there is no avalanche forecasting at all in Southeast Alaska; and

WHEREAS, highway, city, and railroad maintenance crews, power plant and line workers, loggers, rescue personnel, ski patrollers, and guides are frequently exposed to avalanche danger, when houses, highways, and facilities are located in avalanche zones; and

WHEREAS, "given the vast number of acres of recreational land owned by the federal government in Alaska, it is appropriate that the federal government contribute to the cost of avalanche prevention and control" [Sen. Murkowski statement]; and

WHEREAS, Senators Stevens and Murkowski, along with other Western State Senators, have introduced legislation, the Federal Land Recreational Visitor Protection Act of 2003 (S. 931), directing the Secretary of the Interior to establish a coordinated avalanche control program; and

WHEREAS, this proposed federal legislation requires the Secretary of Interior, Agriculture, and the Army to establish a central depository for weapons, ammunition, and parts for avalanche control, and to make this inventory available for avalanche control purposes; and

WHEREAS, this federal legislation provides for grant funding "to assist in the prevention, forecasting, detection, and mitigation of avalanches".

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA:

Section 1. The City and Borough of Juneau Assembly respectfully expresses its support for the Federal Land Recreational Visitor Protection Act of 2003 (S. 931), directing the Secretary of the Interior to establish a coordinated avalanche control program.

Section 2. Copies of this resolution shall be provided to the Honorable Senator Ted Stevens, the Honorable Senator Lisa Murkowski, and the Honorable Representative Don Young, Alaska's Congressional Delegation, Governor Frank Murkowski, and the President of the United States.

Section 3. Effective Date. This resolution shall be effective immediately upon adoption.

Adopted this 8th day of December, 2003.

Attest:

Hurie J. Sica, Clerk