

Presented by: Mayor Botelho
Introduced: 10/24/2005
Drafted by: J.W. Hartle

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA

Serial No. 2334

A Resolution Expressing Assembly Opposition to a Passport Requirement for Travel Between Canada and the United States.

WHEREAS, on September 1, 2005, the U.S. Departments of Homeland Security and State published the Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative, (WHTI), in the U.S. Federal Register, formally initiating a 60-day comment period; and

WHEREAS, the WHTI will require all U.S. citizens, citizens of the British Overseas Territory of Bermuda, and citizens of Canada and Mexico, to have a passport or other accepted documentation establishing the bearer's identity and citizenship to enter or re-enter the United States; and

WHEREAS, the WHTI rule will be applied to air and sea travel by December 2006, and to land travel by December 2007, as well as air and sea travel; and

WHEREAS, the United States government is seeking input on six aspects of the WHTI rule:

- 1) the types of documents denoting citizenship and identity that should be acceptable alternatives to a passport;
- 2) the economic impact of the proposed changes;
- 3) monetary and other costs that will be incurred by U.S. citizens and others because of the new document requirements;
- 4) the benefits of the rule;
- 5) alternative methods of complying with the legislation;
- 6) the proposed stages of implementation; and

WHEREAS, the Canadian Consul has written to the Mayor expressing the need to keep our borders open to trade and people and closed to terrorists, and is encouraging local governments to express their views to the United States government; and

WHEREAS, a passport requirement would make travel between the United States and Canada less convenient; and

WHEREAS, a passport requirement would make access to the capital city less convenient; and

WHEREAS, a passport requirement would reduce commerce and hinder touring traffic with Juneau's sister city, Whitehorse, Yukon, Canada; and

WHEREAS, a passport requirement could have a detrimental impact on cross-border tourism; and

WHEREAS, many Alaskans and Canadians would find a passport requirement for travel between the United States and Canada to be inconvenient; and

WHEREAS, opposition to a passport requirement has been expressed by many parties, including President George W. Bush, U.S. Senator Chuck Schumer, and the Wall Street Journal.

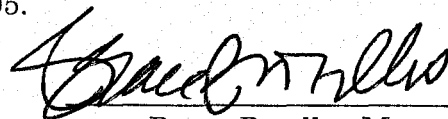
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA:

Section 1. The Assembly hereby expresses its opposition to any requirement for a passport for travel between the United States and Canada.

Section 2. Resolution 2334 expressing the Assembly views and comments shall be forwarded by mail to: Bureau of Customs and Border Protection, Office of Regulations and Rulings, Regulations Branch, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, D.C. 20229, referencing Regulatory Information Number (RIN) (1651-AA66).

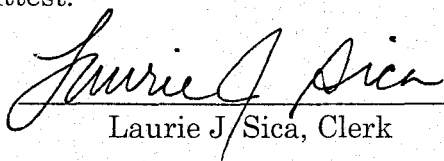
Section 3. Effective Date. This resolution shall be effective immediately upon adoption.

Adopted this 24th day of October, 2005.



Bruce Botelho, Mayor

Attest:



Laurie J. Sica, Clerk