Presented by: Hughes-Skandijs
Presented: 04/07/2025
Drafted by: Law Department

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA

Serial No. 4005

A Resolution Expressing the City and Borough of Juneau's Support for Federal Workers and Urging Alaska's Congressional Delegation to Oppose Cuts to Federal Agencies.

WHEREAS, the City and Borough of Juneau (CBJ) recognizes the invaluable role that federal workers play in supporting the wellbeing, prosperity, and functioning of the community; and

WHEREAS, federal employees in Juneau provide essential services across multiple agencies, supporting critical sectors such as public lands, fisheries, transportation, weather forecasting, and public safety; and

WHEREAS, the Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Center, operated by the U.S. Forest Service, draws hundreds of thousands of visitors each year and serves as a cornerstone of Juneau's tourism economy, relying on federal staff to provide interpretation, education, and stewardship of this natural asset; and

WHEREAS, federal personnel from agencies such as National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service play a vital role in the management and research of Alaska's fisheries, ensuring sustainability and economic stability for a key regional industry; and

WHEREAS, the National Weather Service (NWS), a division of NOAA, provides essential weather forecasting and monitoring services that are critical to public safety and emergency preparedness, including real-time tracking of weather events, marine forecasts, and flood risk assessments; and

WHEREAS, the NWS actively monitors the Suicide Basin and issues warnings to the public and local emergency responders about potential glacial outburst floods, helping to prevent loss of life and minimize damage to infrastructure in Juneau; and

WHEREAS, federal employment in Juneau not only provides family-sustaining wages but also supports local businesses through spending on housing, goods, services, and tourism-related activity, contributing significantly to the overall economic health of the region; and

WHEREAS, the presence of federal employees contributes significantly to the local economy through direct employment, contracting, and spending, and their continued work enhances the quality of life and resilience of the Juneau community; and

WHEREAS, recent and proposed cuts to federal agencies threaten the ability of these agencies to fulfill their missions, reduce capacity for service delivery in Southeast Alaska, and negatively impact both economic and environmental outcomes for the region.

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

Section 1. The City and Borough of Juneau strongly supports the work of federal employees and affirms their importance to the community's economic vitality, environmental stewardship, and public safety. The Assembly calls on the Alaska Congressional Delegation to take proactive action to restore funding and capacity to agencies whose services are essential to the people of Juneau and Southeast Alaska, and to strongly oppose cuts to federal agencies.

Section 2. Effective Date. This resolution shall be effective immediately after its adoption.

Adopted this 7th day of April, 2025.

Beth A. Weldon, Mayor

Attest:

Elizabeth J. McEwen, Municipal Clerk