



Alaska Library Association • P.O. Box 81084, Fairbanks, AK 99708 • www.akla.org

Resolution

WHEREAS the Alaska State Legislature wisely established a major renovation/new constructions grant program for public libraries in 2008; this grant program residing in DCCED and,

WHEREAS although unfunded, the program allows for public libraries with building projects to authenticate their "shovel-readiness" and be placed upon a construction readiness matrix maintained by the Alaska Library Association, and

WHEREAS this construction readiness matrix has proven useful in legislative line-item funding requests; public libraries in Alaska having received over \$50 million in capital funding since the legislation passed, and

WHEREAS this funding has allowed major construction projects in 18 public libraries in as many communities, thereby improving library services and information access to a huge number of Alaskans, and

WHEREAS communities that have benefited from the program with new or renovated public libraries are Cordova, Kenai, Seward, Petersburg, Barrow and Sutton in 2011; Soldotna, Ketchikan, Skagway and Kodiak in 2012; Fairbanks, Talkeetna, Juneau and Sitka in 2013. Wasilla and Anchor Point received partial funding in 2014, and

WHEREAS museums and cultural centers play an important role in the preservation of Alaska's physical history and culture, and, through outreach efforts, teach students and lifelong learners alike, and

WHEREAS museums and cultural centers have a close relationship with public libraries; in many communities library collections, archival materials and museum collections and other historic materials are co-located, and

WHEREAS many students, communities and Alaska history collections could benefit from a museum/cultural center construction grant program akin to the one for public libraries, and

WHEREAS museums, cultural centers and libraries form a natural learning alliance,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the Alaska Library Association endorses and wholeheartedly supports a legislative initiative, HB 52, to provide a grant program for constructing and renovating museums and cultural centers in Alaska.

Signed, Alaska Library Association President

Date

1-22-15