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Member of the National League of Cities and the National Association of Counties

January 30, 2020

RE: In support of SB115

The Alaska Municipal League (AML) is a member-service organization with a purpose to strengthen local governments in Alaska. AML responds to the needs of 165 cities and boroughs in the state.

We are all painfully aware of the formidable challenges facing Alaska's communities and the State of Alaska and the lack of sufficient funding to adequately address them. Whether it is school construction and maintenance, water and wastewater solutions, transportation or energy infrastructure, local governments in Alaska understand that current local and state revenues are insufficient to meet the needs of residents and support economic development.

While AML members have voted in support of broad-based revenue measures to be considered at the State level, at our annual meeting in November 2019 members also voted in support of SB115, an increase to the State's motor fuel tax. We recognize that the motor fuel tax has not increased for some time, and more importantly has not kept pace with changes in behavior, inflationary pressures, and increased need. Revenue generated through this modest and targeted tax increase could be used for road and marine transportation construction and maintenance, water and harbor facilities, and airport capital and operating needs, all critical state needs.

This should be regarded as part of a long-term fiscal plan for the State, a necessary component piece, even as the Legislature works to address additional components – continued work on revenues and reductions consistent with the public interest.

Thank you for your consideration of this issue.

Respectfully,

Nils Andreassen
Executive Director