



ONE SEALASKA PLAZA, SUITE 200 • JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801
TEL (907) 586-1325 • FAX (907) 463-5480 • WWW.AKML.ORG

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

May 2, 2022

In support of Economic Development (HB411)

AML is supportive of legislation that strengthens the ability of local governments to assist in economic development activities within their jurisdiction.

AML members have a number of resolutions in support generally of economic development, and specifically to address greater flexibility within Title 29.

We understand HB411 to accomplish this in a few ways:

- Allows economic development to occur not only through the use of tax revenue, but by using any other available revenue as well. This would have streamlined approaches during the economic crisis caused during the pandemic, for instance, or would allow federal funds to be used as appropriate.
- To allow for economic development within service areas, via optional exemptions. This is a current limitation that needs to be rectified to meet needs of areas within a larger jurisdiction, which are currently prohibited from this kind of activity.
- To define economic development broadly, such that local governments can apply a variety of tools to this issue, thereby increasing local decision-making responsive to local needs.

Thank you for your attention to this issue. We know that economic development is a hallmark of this Legislature, for which a great deal of credit is due.

Respectfully,

Nils Andreassen
Executive Director