

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 46

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE COMMUNITY AND REGIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Introduced: 2/19/10

Referred: Community and Regional Affairs

A RESOLUTION

1 **Urging Congressional support for the reauthorization of the Denali Commission.**

2 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

3 **WHEREAS**, since 1999, the Denali Commission has promoted rural development by
4 providing economic, infrastructure, job training, and health care support in rural communities,
5 with minimal overhead and administrative costs; and

6 **WHEREAS** the Denali Commission has invested approximately \$1,000,000,000 to
7 improve the infrastructure and sustainability of rural Alaska communities, which has
8 complemented the state's investment of approximately \$2,000,000,000 for those purposes;
9 and

10 **WHEREAS** the Denali Commission has proven to be an effective catalyst for federal
11 and state efforts to improve rural infrastructure, including transmission facilities,
12 communication systems, bulk fuel facilities, power system upgrades, primary care clinics and
13 other health facilities, housing, washeterias, solid waste facilities, and rural transportation
14 improvements; and

15 **WHEREAS** the Denali Commission has trained construction and health care workers
16 for careers in their communities and regions, and has promoted economic development and

1 sustainability through effective interagency coordination; and

2 **WHEREAS** the Denali Commission has served Alaska well for over a decade in
3 meeting its intended purposes and therefore merits continued funding and authorization; and

4 **WHEREAS** the Bush Caucus recognizes the importance of the state's role as a co-
5 chair of the Denali Commission and will urge the legislature to continue to provide matching
6 funds for Denali Commission projects; and

7 **WHEREAS** President Obama's administration has recognized the importance of the
8 Denali Commission with a base appropriation of \$11,965,000 a year in the federal fiscal year
9 2010 and 2011 budgets;

10 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature recognizes the valuable work of
11 the Denali Commission and supports the reauthorization of the commission for an additional
12 five years; and be it

13 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully urges the
14 United States Congress to provide the necessary funding for the ongoing development and
15 operation of the Denali Commission.

16 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of
17 the United States; the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., Vice-President of the United States and
18 President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Harry Reid, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate;
19 the Honorable Mitch McConnell, Minority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Nancy
20 Pelosi, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable John Boehner, Minority
21 Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Gary F. Locke, United States
22 Secretary of Commerce; the Honorable Raymond L. LaHood, United States Secretary of
23 Transportation; the Honorable Kathleen Sebelius, United States Secretary of Health and
24 Human Services; and the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Mark Begich, U.S.
25 Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska
26 delegation in Congress.