



ALPHA Resolution

2009-07 Support and Membership in the Alliance for Aviation Across America to improve medical access, emergency services, and disaster relief in rural communities

WHEREAS, aviation touches all aspects of life in rural Alaska, and is a basic mode of transportation; and

WHEREAS, approximately 82% of Alaskan communities are not served by roads and most of the time there is no practical alternative to medical access for our citizens to hub community hospitals other than by the aviation system according to the Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities; and

WHEREAS, aviation medical evacuation is an essential part of the health care system in Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the **Alliance for Aviation Across America** (AAAA), formed in 2007, is a non-profit, non-partisan diverse coalition of aviation enthusiasts and professionals, local airports, civic organizations representing rural and agriculture voices, city, county and state officials, economic development entities, non-profit organizations, small and mid-size businesses and others dedicated to supporting interests of the general aviation community across various public policy issues;¹ and

WHEREAS, AAAA's goal is to protect the economic lifeline supported by aviation to rural and small communities, which is a crucial resource for business, medical care, disaster relief and a key transportation asset to residents isolated areas; and²

WHEREAS, AAAA supports modernizing the Air Traffic Control System with Satellite Technology from today's ground-based navigation system, and³

WHEREAS, AAAA opposes user fees in any form because of the burden that they would place on Americans who depend on small planes for their livelihood, and supports current "pay at the pump" fuel tax system as a simple, efficient way to pay in to the Airport and Airways Trust Fund; and⁴

WHEREAS, AAAA opposes unworkable and counterproductive provisions of the Transportation Security Administration's (TSA) Large Aircraft Security Program because

it would create huge financial and operational burdens for general aviation, while not making us any safer;⁵ and

WHEREAS, AAAA encourages investment in our aviation infrastructure by supporting the Airport Improvement Program, which helps to provide upgrades, renovation, and improvements to small airports which boosts local economies, creates jobs, and ensures the viability of small communities;⁶ and

WHEREAS, AAAA, because commercial air service is critical to many small and mid-sized cities, supports funding for the Essential Air Service program;⁷ and

WHEREAS, Alaska has 45 communities with Essential Air Service subsidies; and

WHEREAS, membership in the Alliance for Aviation Across America (www.aviationacrossamerica.com) is free and because improving aviation means better medical access, and improves delivery of emergency services and disaster relief in rural Alaska communities.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Alaska Public Health Association supports the Alliance for Aviation Across America and will apply for membership within 60 days of passage of this resolution.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska Public Health Association will promote and advocate support for the study through:

- Posting of ALPHA resolutions on the Alaska Public Health Association’s website and/or otherwise making this resolution available to the public
- Distribution of this resolution statement to policy makers and key decision makers in the Alaska Native community, State of Alaska, Alaska legislature, University of Alaska, and the Alaska federal legislators.

FISCAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH IMPACT STATEMENT: This action will result in minor costs associated with sending this resolution and accompanying cover letter to the Governor and key political leaders. This action will benefit public health by supporting aviation infrastructure critical to aviation safety in small and rural communities and support communities reliant on aviation for essential services.

¹ <http://www.aviationacrossamerica.org/>

² Ibid

³ Ibid

⁴ Ibid

⁵ Ibid

⁶ Ibid

⁷ Ibid