

Resolution of the City of Aniak, Alaska

RESOLUTION #25-01

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE CONTINUATION OF THE ESSENTIAL AIR SERVICE (EAS) PROGRAM TO ENSURE CONSISTENT AND RELIABLE AIR TRANSPORTATION FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES

WHEREAS, the Essential Air Service (EAS) program was established to guarantee that communities served by certificated air carriers maintain a minimum level of scheduled air service, ensuring access to the National Air Transportation System; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Transportation is mandated by Congress to provide EAS subsidies to air carriers or grants to communities through the Alternate EAS (AEAS) program to support air transportation services to remote areas; and

WHEREAS, as of Fall 2024, EAS provides critical subsidies or grants to 65 communities in Alaska and 112 communities in the contiguous United States, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico that would otherwise lack scheduled air service; and

WHEREAS, the continuation of the EAS program is vital all remote communities in Alaska; and

WHEREAS, any reduction or elimination of the EAS program would significantly increase the cost of traveling, as well as the cost of essential goods such as groceries, mail, cargo, medical supplies, and other necessities, making them prohibitive and unaffordable to most residents; and

WHEREAS, the termination of the EAS program would further exacerbate economic challenges already faced by rural communities; and

WHEREAS, the House Budget Committee, through the Budget Reconciliation process, has identified the EAS program as a potential budget cut, threatening the economic stability and accessibility of air transportation for rural communities; and

WHEREAS, Congress passed the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2024, extending funding through Fiscal Year 2028, and it is crucial to ensure continued support and prioritization of the EAS program within federal funding allocations;

City of Aniak

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Aniak strongly supports the continuation and full funding of the Essential Air Service (EAS) program to protect the accessibility and affordability of air transportation for rural and remote communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council of Aniak, Alaska urges Alaska's congressional delegation and members of Congress representing remote areas serviced by EAS including representatives from Hawaii, U.S. territories, and the House and Senate Transportation Committees to protect the EAS funding and advocate against any proposed budget cuts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution shall be sent to the Alaska Congressional Delegation, the U.S. Department of Transportation, the House and Senate Transportation Committees, and other relevant federal and state entities to emphasize the importance of continued support for the Essential Air Service program.

PASSED AND APPROVED by duly constituted quorum of the City of Aniak, Alaska this ____ day of _____, 2025

Vote	YES	NO
David Bonanno	_____	_____
Annie Sakar-Morgan	_____	_____
Clara Morgan	_____	_____
William Willson	_____	_____
Samantha Charles	_____	_____
Lisa Seavey	_____	_____
Andrew Folz	_____	_____

Signed: _____

Mayor David W. Bonanno

ATTEST _____

City Clerk Morgan Simeon