CITY OF GUSTAVUS, ALASKA RESOLUTION CY18-34

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF GUSTAVUS, ALASKA REQUESTING IMMEDIATE ACTION FOR THE REMOVAL OF AQUEOUS FILM FORMING FOAM (AFFF), REPLACEMENT WITH AN ENVIRONMENTALLY SAFE ALTERNATIVE, AND COMPLETE CONTAINMENT AND PROPER DISPOSAL OF ALL AFFF

WHEREAS, the City of Gustavus and its citizens are very concerned with the contamination of its natural resources from the use of Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) present in Aqueous Film Forming Foam (AFFF) currently required by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) for Part 139 Airports; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska State Department of Transportation (DOT) report dated November 20, 2018, shows a minimum of 46 wells including private homes, local businesses, a public school and a child care center have measurable amounts of PFAS and at least 19 contain levels above the State of Alaska's current action level for drinking water; and

WHEREAS, the potential adverse effects on human health caused by PFAS exposure at any level are as yet undefined and thus any level of PFAS exposure is potentially harmful; and

WHEREAS, the potential adverse effects on flora and fauna, including subsistence resources, caused by PFAS exposure at any level are as yet undefined and thus any level of PFAS exposure is potentially harmful; and

WHEREAS, Gustavus, the Gateway to Glacier Bay National Park, is recognized world-wide as a pristine, unpolluted ecosystem that exemplifies a natural environment untouched by contamination: and

WHEREAS, current PFAS contamination and national media surrounding the issue will have an adverse effect on Gustavus' economy including tourism and property values, as well as the overall health and wellbeing of the community; and

WHEREAS, the City recognizes that the State of Alaska, through its distribution and use of AFFF, is responsible for the PFAS contamination of drinking-water wells and accessible surface water and should be held accountable for mitigation of the contaminants and associated impacts; and

WHEREAS, the City acknowledges that the FAA currently requires the State of Alaska to use AFFF at the Gustavus airport, recognizing that the FAA has been given three (3) years to provide an environmentally safe alternative.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the City requests the FAA to immediately provide an exemption to the Gustavus airport allowing the use of AFFF; and

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED, that the City requests The State of Alaska remove all AFFF from the Gustavus airport immediately and provide an environmentally safe fire suppressing foam; and

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED, that the City requests DOT clean or replace all State owned and contracted vehicles and equipment in Gustavus that have been used to disburse the AFFF to ensure all potential contamination is remediated; and

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED, that the City requests that the State of Alaska provide a system for containment and disposal of any current or future fire suppressing foam that is dispersed for testing and training purposes; and

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED, that the City requests that the Alaska State Federal delegation be actively involved with the issue of PFAS contamination as it has the potential to affect a large portion of the State's residents through resulting health issues, property valuations, and declines in tourism; and

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED, that the City of Gustavus requests assistance from Alaska Airlines in the form of petitioning the FAA to release the mandate on AFFF immediately and provide an environmentally safe alternative; and

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be transmitted along with the above requests and additionally, distributed to interested parties to the greatest extent practicable.

PASSED AND **APPROVED** by the Gustavus City Council this 18th day of December 2018, and effective upon its adoption.

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Calvin Casipit, Mayor

Attest: Karen Platt, City Clerk