

## Resolution of Concern Regarding Alaska's Archives

*WHEREAS*, manuscripts, diaries, public records, maps, photographs, films, and recordings are the primary source materials of Alaska's history and are irreplaceable treasures; and

*WHEREAS*, these archival materials need adequate facilities and trained professionals for their preservation and for safekeeping while making them available to attorneys, land and resource managers, public officials, scientists, historians, genealogists, Alaska Natives, and individuals for many diverse purposes; and

*WHEREAS*, the members of the Alaska Historical Society and Museums Alaska—statewide organizations dedicated to the preservation, development, and understanding of Alaska's history—have become aware of reductions of professional staff and deterioration of several facilities where Alaska's archival records are housed; and

*WHEREAS*, the closing of the Alaska office of the National Archives and Records Administration in 2014, moved collections and made access to them by Alaskans more difficult and more expensive; and

*WHEREAS*, two recent floods and the unwanted growth of mold at the world-renowned Alaska and Polar Regions Collections & Archives of the University of Alaska Fairbanks have led to curtailed access to the archives by staff and the public in addition to threatening the records themselves; and

*WHEREAS*, a flood earlier this year in the Alaska Room at the Z. J. Loussac Municipal Library in Anchorage, damaged over 1,000 items, some irreparably. Subsequent decisions have been to close the Alaska Room, to not dedicate professional staff to the significant Alaskan collection, and to divide the collection; and

*WHEREAS*, the private archive of the *Anchorage Times*, a newspaper published for 76 years, is in storage in Arkansas, and hence not available to researchers; and

*WHEREAS*, cumulatively, in the last five years the people of Alaska have lost access to records critically needed by them; now

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Alaska Historical Society and Museums Alaska regard the public and private archives in Alaska to be endangered and calls on Alaska's Congressional delegates, Governor, Legislators, University of Alaska, and municipal officials to provide funding for professional staff for the protection, care, and collection of these irreplaceable materials, and for public access to the materials.