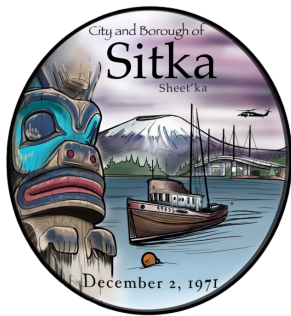


Sponsors: Mosher/Pike

Should this item be pulled from the Consent Agenda the following motion is suggested:

### **POSSIBLE MOTION**

**I MOVE TO** approve Resolution 2025-08 on first and final reading supporting Federal Workers & Agencies, urging Alaska's Congressional Delegation to oppose cuts, and encouraging Congress to work in a collaborative bipartisan way.



# CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA

A COAST GUARD CITY

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Mayor Eisenbeisz and Assembly Members

**From:** Assembly Members Mosher and Pike

**Date:** May 20, 2025

**Subject:** Resolution in support of United States Federal Agencies

---

### **Background**

President Trump took office on January 20, 2025, and since that time the federal government has embarked on a campaign to reduce federal government spending by billions of dollars. These reductions have occurred at an extremely rapid pace, and many of these cuts have hit or will hit local communities throughout Alaska like Sitka very hard, although the depth of these have not been felt yet. This is because of the reduction of services these organizations provide, as in just one example in this resolution, the decreased service to weather forecasting through the National Weather Service (NWS). This service is essential for health and safety in Southeast Alaska, a region known for its harsh and unpredictable weather patterns.

The cuts to services affecting Sitka and Southeast Alaska are not limited to the NWS mentioned above and, in the resolution, but this only serves as one example. There are many more organizations facing cuts that are not listed in this resolution. These include but are not limited to and in no particular order, Public Radio, Indian Health Service (IHS), National Endowment for the arts (NEA), United States Geological Survey (USGS), and more.

### **Fiscal Note**

No costs associated with this resolution, other than staff time to email to our congressional delegation.

### **Recommendation**

This resolution is not a political statement, but rather an expression of concern for the future and the effects on our citizens. This is simply an attempt to let our congressional delegation know that we are very concerned about these changes to our government

services because of the damage it is and will do to Sitka, and the surrounding region. Our hope is that this resolution, if passed, will encourage them to reach out to their colleagues in congress work to rescind these cuts, and to emphasize to them the importance of working collaboratively on any potential future cuts. We acknowledge that there is always room for efficiencies in the federal government. One would be hard-pressed to find anyone of any political stance who would say that there is no room for improvement in government. We simply value a more thoughtful, balanced approach to these types of changes, and we want our delegation to reach out to other members of congress to emphasize this approach. When people of different opinions work together, and with those affected, cuts to government are more likely to be less hurtful and damaging, and to benefit a wider swath of people, and to last longer than a term or more in congress.

CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-08

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA SUPPORTING FEDERAL WORKERS & AGENCIES, URGING ALASKA'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO OPPOSE CUTS, AND ENCOURAGING CONGRESS TO WORK IN A COLLABORATIVE BIPARTISAN WAY**

**WHEREAS**, the City and Borough of Sitka (CBS) greatly appreciates the tireless efforts of our U.S. Congress members who work to support and protect all peoples within Alaska and other states; and

**WHEREAS**, the City and Borough of Sitka recognizes the invaluable role that federal workers and federal agencies play in supporting the well-being, prosperity, and functioning of the community; and

**WHEREAS**, federal employees in Sitka provide essential services across multiple agencies, supporting critical sectors such as fisheries, natural resource management, public lands, transportation, weather forecasting, public safety, and care for veterans; and

**WHEREAS**, Sitka consistently ranks among the top 10 ports in the United States for ex-vessel value of seafood harvest, making the seafood industry a critical component of Sitka's economy and identity; and

**WHEREAS**, the commercial, sport and subsistence fisheries that are managed by the National Marine Fisheries Service support the livelihoods of hundreds of Sitkans and provide nutritious, locally caught seafood to thousands of households across the community, State, and nation; and

**WHEREAS**, federal personnel from agencies such as National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service play a vital role in the management and research of Alaska's fisheries, ensuring sustainability and economic stability for a key regional industry; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Weather Service (NWS), a division of NOAA, provides essential weather forecasting and monitoring services that are critical to public safety, emergency preparedness, and life in coastal communities, including real-time tracking of weather events, marine forecasts, and landslide risk assessments; and

**WHEREAS**, the NWS is an active participant in increasing community preparedness for landslides, which have resulted in devastating loss of life and property in Sitka and across Southeast Alaska; and

**WHEREAS**, federal personnel from the U.S. Forest Service provide critical support for tourism and fishing economies as well as community wellbeing by maintaining trails, public use cabins, permitting for outfitters and guides, healthy fisheries habitat, and implementation of in-season management of the Redoubt sockeye fishery in collaboration with the Sitka Tribe of Alaska and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game; and

**WHEREAS**, cuts to the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) will disproportionately affect those less fortunate, as the Sitka Public Library depends on funds from IMLS and offers services such as free Wi-Fi, computer access, educational programs, and much more; and

**WHEREAS**, federal employment in Sitka not only provides family-sustaining wages but also supports local businesses and schools through spending on housing, goods, services, and tourism-related activity, contributing significantly to the overall economic health of the region; and

**WHEREAS**, the presence of federal employees contributes significantly to the local economy through direct employment, contracting, and spending, and their continued work enhances the quality of life and resilience of the Sitka community; and

**WHEREAS**, recent and proposed cuts to federal agencies threaten the ability of these agencies to fulfill their missions, reduce capacity for service delivery in Southeast Alaska, and negatively impact both economic and environmental outcomes for the region.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH ASSEMBLY OF SITKA THAT:**

**Section 1.** Strongly supports the work of federal employees and affirms their importance to the community's economic vitality, environmental stewardship, and public safety. The Assembly calls on the Alaska Congressional Delegation to take proactive action to restore funding and capacity to agencies whose services are essential to the people of Sitka and Southeast Alaska, and to strongly oppose cuts to federal agencies.

**Section 2.** Strongly encourages the Alaska Congressional Delegation to take proactive steps to work with Congress, to make sure that future proposed cuts to the federal government be made in a collaborative, bipartisan way that includes not just members of Congress, but also members of federal agencies, as well as state and local stakeholders who will be affected by these cuts. We believe working in this way will make sure that rather than cutting and then restoring, any efficiencies desired to be made, will be done in a way that people of all political stances can get behind, understand, does not do damage to the people of our nation.

**PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED** by the Assembly of the City and Borough of Sitka, Alaska on this 29<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2025

---

Steven Eisenbeisz, Mayor

ATTEST:

---

Sara Peterson, MMC  
Municipal Clerk