

## CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA

### RESOLUTION 2019-27

#### **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA TO JOIN THE ALASKA REMOTE SELLER SALES TAX COMMISSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DEVELOPING, IMPLEMENTING, AND ENFORCING A REMOTE SELLERS SALE TAX CODE AND DESIGNATING A CITY REPRESENTATIVE TO THE COMMISSION**

WHEREAS, the inability to effectively collect sales tax on sales of property, products or services transferred or delivered into Alaska in response to orders placed electronically by consumers with remote sellers, is seriously eroding the sales tax base of communities, causing revenue losses and imminent harm to residents through the loss of critical funding for local public services and infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the harm from the loss of revenue is especially serious in Alaska because the state has no broad-based tax, and sales tax revenues are essential in funding the provision of services by local governments; and

WHEREAS, the failure to collect tax on remote sales creates market distortions by creating tax shelters for businesses that limit their physical presence in the state or cities and boroughs but still sell their goods and services to their consumers, something that becomes easier and more prevalent as technology continues to advance; and

WHEREAS, the structural advantages for remote sellers, including the absence of point-of-sale tax collection, along with the general growth of online retail, make clear that erosion of the sales tax base is and has been occurring and is a growing problem that is likely to only worsen in the near future; and

WHEREAS, remote sellers who make a substantial number of deliveries into or have large gross revenues from Alaska benefit extensively from the Alaska market, affecting the economy generally, as well as local infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, given modern computing and software options, it is neither unusually difficult nor burdensome for remote sellers to collect and remit sales taxes associated with sales into Alaska taxing jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, the recent decision by the United States Supreme Court in *South Dakota v. Wayfair* allows for the amendment of the sales tax code to account for remote sellers who do not have a physical presence in either the state of Alaska or within the City and Borough of Sitka, but do have a taxable connection with the State of Alaska and the City and Borough of Sitka; and

WHEREAS, the decision in *South Dakota v. Wayfair* provided guidance that included the defensibility of a single-level statewide administration of remote sales tax collection and remittance; and

WHEREAS, in order to implement a single-level statewide sales tax administration, it is the intent of local taxing jurisdictions within Alaska to establish an intergovernmental entity known as the Alaska Remote Seller Sales Tax Commission (the "Commission"); and

WHEREAS, the function and powers of the Commission will be set forth under the Alaska Intergovernmental Remote Seller Sales Tax Agreement (the "Agreement"), a cooperative agreement between Commission members; and

WHEREAS, under the terms of the Agreement, in order to maintain membership in the Commission, the City and Borough of Sitka will be required to adopt certain uniform code provisions for the collection and remittance of municipal sales tax applicable to sales made by remote seller; and

WHEREAS, the uniform remote sales tax code will be presented to the City and Borough of Sitka Assembly for consideration once adopted by the Commission; and

WHEREAS, once adopted, the administration of remote sales tax collection and remittance will be delegated to the Commission; and

WHEREAS, the intent of the Agreement is to enable Alaska's taxing jurisdictions to levy their municipal sales tax to the maximum limit of federal and state constitutional doctrines; and

WHEREAS, the City and Borough of Sitka Home Rule Charter Section 1.03 provides that the municipality may exercise all powers of home rule cities or boroughs not prohibited by law or by Charter and entering into the intergovernmental agreement contemplated by this resolution is not prohibited by law or by Charter.

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

**Section 1. Authorization.** The Assembly authorizes the Municipal Administrator to negotiate, execute, and submit all necessary documents to obtain and maintain membership in the Alaska Remote Seller Sales Tax Commission.

**Section 2. Representation.** The Assembly designates the Finance Director as the City and Borough of Sitka's representative on the Commission.

**Section 3. Scope of Agreement.** The Alaska Intergovernmental Remote Seller Sales Tax Agreement is included as Attachment A.

**Section 4. Effective Date.** This resolution shall be effective immediately after its adoption.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED by the Assembly of the City and Borough of Sitka, Alaska on this 10<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2019.



\_\_\_\_\_  
Gary L. Paxton, Mayor

Attest:



\_\_\_\_\_  
Sara Peterson, MMC  
Municipal Clerk

1<sup>st</sup> and final reading 12/10/19

Sponsors: Christianson / Knox