

ALASKA STATE COMMISSION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

RESOLUTION NO. 86-02

WHEREAS, the Alaska State Commission for Human Rights has been entrusted with the responsibility to consider complaints of discrimination, to study discrimination problems in this State, and to assess Alaska's progress toward equal employment opportunity; and

WHEREAS, many of the complaints made to the Commission have been complaints about discrimination in employment; and

WHEREAS, in carrying out its responsibilities the Commission has become aware of the problems that minority Alaskans and Alaskans who live in economically distressed areas have had in finding jobs; and

WHEREAS, these problems are severe and will become worse if the Alaskan economy's present slowdown continues; and

WHEREAS, governmental protection for Alaska residents' employment opportunities raises complex legal questions, which have led to a court decision striking down Alaska's resident employment preference laws; and

WHEREAS, if the problems that minority Alaskans and Alaskans who live in economically distressed areas are to be solved, Alaska needs a new local hire law; and

WHEREAS, Sponsor Substitute for House Bill No. 466, now pending in the Alaska Legislature, would provide special preferences for qualified residents of underemployed areas, economically distressed areas, and for economically disadvantaged minority residents of Alaska; and

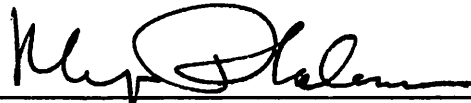
WHEREAS, there is not discrimination in Sponsor Substitute for House Bill No. 466, and nothing which undercuts the principle of equal employment opportunity;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ALASKA STATE COMMISSION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS:

That the Commission endorses the approach to Alaska resident employment preference contained in Sponsor Substitute for House Bill No. 466; and

That the Commission urges the Alaska Legislature to pass a resident employment preference bill before the end of this session and urges the Governor of Alaska to sign and enforce it, so that the employment problems faced by minority Alaskans and Alaskans who live in economically distressed areas will receive the governmental attention they require.

DATED at Juneau, Alaska, this 14th day of March 1986



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Morgan P. Solomon, Vice-Chairperson