

**Resolution No. 2011-1
of the
Aviation Advisory Board**

**Resolution Concerning Support for Essential Air Service to the
State of Alaska**

Whereas, Essential Air Service (EAS) Program supports air transportation service to 44 communities in Alaska; only six of these are connected to a national transportation system road; and

Whereas, EAS helps ensure the communities receiving EAS funding continue to have air transportation service that would not be possible without this support; and

Whereas, the Alaska Aviation Advisory Board believes Alaska has unique transportation issues including:

- The boundaries of the State of Alaska encompass more than 575,000 square miles
- Alaska ranks 50th among the states as having the least road miles per unit area, with only 0.027 miles of road per square mile
- Alaska is one-fifth the size of the Lower 48, but only 18 percent of the communities in the state are accessible by road
- Due to the size and lack of road access, Alaskans ship 39 times more air freight than residents of rural western states
- Air travel in Alaska is not a convenience; it is a critical transportation mode providing basic day-to-day necessities and access to health facilities

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that we request Governor Parnell and the Alaska Congressional Delegation support funding for the Essential Air Service Program so that air service to these communities may continue.

Signed:



Lee M. Ryan, Aviation Advisory Board Chair

Date: May 3, 2011