

ALGER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Mary Ann Froberg, Clerk
101 COURT STREET, MUNISING, MI 49862

RESOLUTION #2011-07

**RESOLUTION TO ADDRESS FUTURE MANDATES
PASS HOUSE BILL 4038 AND
HOUSE BILL 4039**

WHEREAS, in 2009, the Legislative Commission on Unfunded Mandates determined that more than \$2.5 billion in services that can be measured and billions more than cannot be measured, is provided by local units of government for free to the state of Michigan through unfunded mandates. Legislation has been introduced by Representative Kowall to correct this problem going forward.

WHEREAS, the proposed legislation requires the state legislature to pay for any new mandates it imposes on counties and other local governments, or else it would become optional.

WHEREAS, the proposed legislation avoids costly and time-consuming court battles for both sides by streamlining the process by which unfunded mandates are challenged.

WHEREAS, Governor Rick Snyder announced support for the concept expressed by these bills in his special message regarding Community Development and Local Government Reforms.

ACKNOWLEDGING THAT, the Alger County Board of Commissioners supports passage of Representative Kowall's package of bills to eliminate future unfunded mandates by the legislature on counties and other local units. The package would make it easier for the legislature to abide by the Constitution.

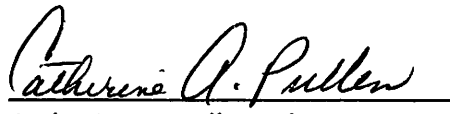
WHEREAS, getting rid of existing mandates, or making them optional would give county commissioners the ability to look at both their responsibilities and the funding their constituents entrust to them in a more holistic manner. The Alger County Board of Commissioners supports making existing mandates optional in order to allow counties the flexibility to govern according to the will of the people they serve, rather than the dictates of Lansing.

WHEREAS, on the issue of court funding, while the court system in Michigan is one that is state controlled, it is largely county funded with little, if any say by counties in court operations. This financial responsibility has become a huge financial burden to Michigan counties, both large and small.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Alger County Board of Commissioners hereby requests that MAC work with Representative Kowall and others to introduce legislation, no later than October 1, 2011, requiring the State of Michigan to fully fund Michigan's court system within three (3) years or no later than October 1, 2014. Should state legislation not be adopted and should the State of Michigan not fully fund the Michigan court system within the three year time frame, the Alger County Board of Commissioners requests that MAC pursue litigation to remedy this financial burden to Michigan counties.

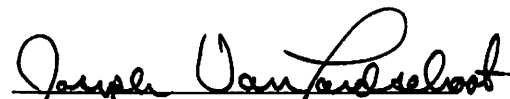
Dated: June 20, 2011


Alger County Board of Commissioners:


Catherine A. Pullen, Chairperson


Jerry Doucette, Commissioner


Esley M. Mattson, Vice-Chairman


Joseph VanLandschoot, Commissioner


Mickey G. Rondeau, Commissioner

