

## RESOLUTION #2016-89

### IN THE MATTER OF SUPPORTING AN INCREASE IN SALES AND USE TAX FOR FUNDING PUBLIC SAFETY IN LINCOLN COUNTY AND ITS MUNICIPALITIES

**WHEREAS**, the Washington State Legislature passed RCW 82.14.450 in 2003 to authorize legislative authorities to submit propositions to the voters that would authorize an increase in local sales and use tax by up to three-tenths of one percent (0.3%) excluding the sale of motor vehicles; and

**WHEREAS**, Initiative 747 has limited local governments to a yearly property tax increase to 1% above the amount collected the prior year and that general government expenses continue to grow 3% to 5% per year; and

**WHEREAS**, a structural deficiency exists in the budgets of local governments; and

**WHEREAS**, local governments find it increasingly difficult to provide for adequate public safety, illegal drug enforcement and related property crimes; and

**WHEREAS**, the legislature expressly found when it passed RCW 82.14.450 that local governments face enormous challenges in the funding of Public Safety and criminal justice services; and

**WHEREAS**, unfortunately, Lincoln County had no choice but to cut funding for 2 Road Deputy positions in the 2016 budget and total Sheriff's Office staffing levels have been reduced by 5 in the previous 5 years; and

**WHEREAS**, criminal activity in Lincoln County has increased in both sophistication and complexity in recent years, requiring a substantially greater investment of time and resources by the local criminal justice system; and

**WHEREAS**, RCW 82.14.450 requires that at least one-third of the revenues from such a tax be used for specified criminal justice purposes and that the County retain 60% of said revenues and 40% be distributed to the cities therein based on relative populations; and

**WHEREAS**, Lincoln County proposes to use 100% of its new revenue for Public Safety/Health purposes; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Almira Town Council is committed to supporting the efforts of Lincoln County in providing for adequate Public Safety and encourages the Lincoln County Commissioners to place on the ballot a measure to the

People, to increase the Sales Tax by 3/10th of 1% to help provide funding to support those essential services in Lincoln County and the Cities and Towns within its borders.

Approved this 12<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2016

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Einar Larson, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Jeanette Coppersmith  
Clerk Treasurer