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**CITY OF HOMER
HOMER, ALASKA**

City Manager/Port Director

RESOLUTION 22-076

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF HOMER, ALASKA SUPPORTING FULL FUNDING (\$8,236,815) FOR THE STATE OF ALASKA MUNICIPAL HARBOR FACILITY GRANT PROGRAM IN THE FY 2024 STATE CAPITAL BUDGET.

WHEREAS, The majority of the public boat harbors in Alaska were constructed by the State during the 1960s and 1970s; and

WHEREAS, These harbor facilities represent critical transportation links and are the transportation hubs for waterfront commerce and economic development in Alaskan coastal communities; and

WHEREAS, The harbor facilities in Alaska are ports of refuge for ocean going vessels, and serve as essential transportation hubs to coastal Alaskan communities for supplies, trade in goods and services and connections to the world market for our exports and imports; and

WHEREAS, The State of Alaska over the past nearly 30 years has transferred ownership of most of these State-owned harbors, many of which were at or near the end of their service life at the time of transfer, to local municipalities; and

WHEREAS, The municipalities took over this important responsibility even though they knew that these same harbor facilities were in poor condition at the time of transfer due to the state's failure to keep up with deferred maintenance; and

WHEREAS, Consequently, when local municipal harbormasters formulated their annual harbor facility budgets, they inherited a major financial burden that their local municipal governments could not afford; and

WHEREAS, In response to this financial burden, the Governor and the Alaska Legislature passed legislation in 2006, supported by the Alaska Association of Harbormasters and Port Administrators, to create the Municipal Harbor Facility Grant program (AS 29.60.800); and

WHEREAS, The Department of Transportation and Public Facilities utilizes a beneficial administrative process to review, score and rank applicants to the Municipal Harbor Facility Grant Program, since state funds may be limited; and

42 WHEREAS, For each harbor facility grant application, these municipalities have committed to
43 invest 100% of the design and permitting costs and 50% of the construction cost; and
44

45 WHEREAS, The municipalities of the Sitka, Whittier, and Wrangell/Meyers Chuck have
46 committed to contribute \$8,236,815 in local match funding for FY2024 towards harbor projects of
47 significant importance locally as required in the Harbor Facility Grant Program; and
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49 WHEREAS, Completion of these harbor facility projects is dependent on the 50% match from
50 the State of Alaska's Municipal Harbor Facility Grant Program; and
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52 WHEREAS, During the last fifteen years the Municipal Harbor Facility Grant Program has only
53 been fully funded twice; and
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55 WHEREAS, A survey done by the Alaska Municipal League of Alaska's ports and harbors found
56 that from the respondents, the backlog of projects necessary to repair and replace former State-
57 owned harbors has increased to at least \$500,000,000; and
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59 WHEREAS, Given that Alaska is a maritime state and that our harbors are foundational to both
60 our way of life and the economy of this great State it is in the public's best interest to maintain this
61 critical infrastructure by using State, Local and Federal funds to recapitalize the crucial harbor
62 moorage infrastructure statewide.
63

64 NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Homer City Council urges full funding in the amount
65 of \$8,236,815 by the Governor and the Alaska Legislature for the State of Alaska's Municipal Harbor
66 Facility Grant Program in the FY 2024 State Capital Budget in order to ensure enhanced safety and
67 economic prosperity among Alaskan coastal communities.
68

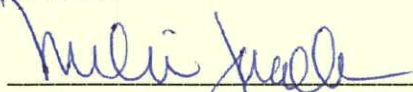
69 PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Homer City Council this 10th day of October, 2022.
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72 CITY OF HOMER

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75 KEN CASTNER, MAYOR

76 ATTEST:

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78 _____
79 MELISSA JACOBSEN, MMC, CITY CLERK
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81 Fiscal note: N/A

