

Alaska Association of Harbormasters and Port Administrators



RESOLUTION NO. 2019-1

A RESOLUTION OF THE ALASKA ASSOCIATION OF HARBORMASTERS AND PORT ADMINISTRATORS IN SUPPORT OF FULL FUNDING (\$12,145,312) FOR THE STATE OF ALASKA MUNICIPAL HARBOR FACILITY GRANT PROGRAM IN THE FY 2021 STATE CAPITAL BUDGET.

Whereas, the Alaska Association of Harbormasters and Port Administrators recognizes the majority of the public boat harbors in Alaska where 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, these harbor facilities are ports of refuge and areas for protection for ocean-going vessels and fishermen throughout the State of Alaska, especially in coastal Alaskan communities; 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 Alaska Association of Harbormasters and Port Administrators, is pleased with the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities administrative process to review, score and rank applicants to the Municipal Harbor Facility Grant Program, since state funds may be limited; and

Whereas, for each harbor facility grant application, these municipalities have committed to invest 100% of the design and permitting costs and 50% of the construction cost; and

Whereas, the municipalities of the City of Cordova, City and Borough of Sitka, City of Ketchikan, City of Homer, City of Edna Bay, City of Kake, City and Borough of Juneau, and the Municipality of Anchorage have offered to contribute \$12,145,312 in local match funding for FY2021 towards seven harbor projects of significant importance locally as required in the Harbor Facility Grant Program; and

Whereas, completion of these harbor facility projects is all dependent on the 50% match from the State of Alaska's Municipal Harbor Facility Grant Program; and

Whereas, during the last ten years the Municipal Harbor Facility Grant Program has only been fully funded twice; and

Whereas, during the last ten years the backlog of projects necessary to repair and replace these former State-owned harbors has increased to over \$100,000,000.

Now therefore be it resolved that the Membership of the Alaska Association of Harbormasters and Port Administrators urges full funding in the amount of \$12,145,312 by the Governor and the Alaska Legislature for the State of Alaska's Municipal Harbor Facility Grant Program in the FY 2021 State Capital Budget in order to ensure enhanced safety and economic prosperity among Alaskan coastal communities.

Passed and approved by a duly constituted quorum of the Alaska Association of Harbormasters and Port Administrators on this 3rd day of October, 2019.



Carl Uchytel, President

ATTEST:



Rachel Lord, Executive Secretary