

A Resolution of the Haines Borough Assembly supporting full funding in the amount of \$11,492,760 for the State of Alaska Municipal Harbor Facility Grant Program in the FY 2023 state capital budget.

WHEREAS, the Haines Borough recognizes the majority of the public boat harbors in Alaska were constructed by the state during the 1960s and 1970s; and

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska over the past 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, these harbor facilities represent critical transportation links and are the transportation hubs for waterfront commerce and economic development in Alaskan coastal communities; and

WHEREAS, when municipal harbormasters formulated their annual harbor facility budgets, they inherited a major financial burden that their 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

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

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

WHEREAS, during the last 15 years the Municipal Harbor Facility Grant Program has only been fully funded twice; and

WHEREAS, a survey done by the Alaska Municipal League of Alaska's ports and harbors found that from the respondents, the backlog of projects necessary to repair and replace former State-owned harbors has increased to at least \$500,000,000; and

WHEREAS, over the past five years, municipal harbors have submitted \$70 million in capital project match requests, representing over \$116 million in shovel-ready capital projects that have received only \$20 million in funding through the Municipal Harbor Facility Grant program with zero funding in FY21 and half of the requested funding in FY22.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Haines Borough Assembly supports full funding in the amount of \$11,492,760 by the Governor and the Alaska State Legislature for the State of Alaska Municipal Harbor Facility Grant Program in the FY 2023 State Capital budget in order to ensure enhanced safety and economic prosperity among Alaskan coastal communities.

Adopted by a duly-constituted quorum of the Haines Borough Assembly on this 11th day of January, 2022.

Attest:

Alekka Fullerton, CMC, Borough Clerk




Douglas Olerud, Mayor