

Alaska Association of Harbormasters and Port Administrators



RESOLUTION NO. 2010-1

A resolution of the Alaska Association of Harbormasters and Port Administrators in support of full funding for the State of Alaska Municipal Harbor facility Grant Program in the FY2012 capital budget

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

WHEREAS, 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 and the municipalities built these harbor facilities; and

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska has transferred most of its harbor facilities to 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, 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 Municipal Harbor Facility Grant Program provides state assistance in the form of a matching 50/50 grant for municipal owned harbor facilities, to be administrated by the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Association of Harbormasters and Port Administrators, is pleased with the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities' administration process to review for eligibility, and to 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, 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, members of the Alaska Association of Harbormasters and Port Administrators from the Cities of Thorne Bay and Kodiak in FY2008, the Cities of Craig, King Cove, Old Harbor and Dillingham, Ketchikan, the Haines Borough, the City and Borough of Yakutat in FY2009, and the City and Borough of Juneau in FY2009 and FY2011, have greatly benefited by receiving previous grant awards from the Municipal Harbor Facility Grant Program; and

WHEREAS, members of the Alaska Association of Harbormasters and Port Administrators from the Cities of Hydaburg, Petersburg, Skagway, Port Lions, Unalaska, Kenai, the Aleutians East Borough for Sand Point and False Pass, and the City and Borough of Juneau applied for Municipal Harbor Facility Grants this July which are pending full funding in the FY2012 capital budget; and

WHEREAS, ten Alaskan coastal communities submitted eleven grant applications totaling \$21,084,645 which if fully matched by the State of Alaska, would result in over \$42 million of construction work that would stimulate local economies, create safer and more-functional harbors for the fishing fleets of Southwest, Central and Southeast Alaskan coastal communities, and create job opportunities for local residents, which is especially important in these times of economic hardship.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Membership of the Alaska Association of Harbormasters and Port Administrators urges full funding by the Governor and the Alaska Legislature for the State of Alaska's Municipal Harbor Facility Grant Program in order to ensure enhanced safety and economic prosperity among Alaskan coastal communities.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by a duly constituted quorum of the Alaska Association of Harbormasters and Port Administrators, this 27th day of October, 2010.



Steven R. Corporon, President

ATTEST:

Kim Elliot

Kim Elliot, Executive Secretary
Alaska Association of Harbormasters and Port Administrators
7 Maksoutoff Street
Sitka, AK 99835