

**A RESOLUTION OF THE COOK INLET HARBOR SAFETY COMMITTEE IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 92: AN ACT RELATING TO ABANDONED AND DERELICT VESSELS**

**Whereas**, the mission of the CIHSC is to promote marine safety and environmental stewardship in the Cook Inlet through pro-active communication between stakeholders; and

**Whereas**, per the CIHSC's Charter the CIHSC may provide recommendations to regulatory bodies on maritime safety issues and seek actions to enhance maritime safety; and

**Whereas**, hundreds of derelict vessels currently litter Alaska's coastline and harbors and these numbers will increase every year unless action is taken to address aging fleets and changing commercial fisheries; and

**Whereas**, in Cook Inlet there have been and continue to be numerous costly and potentially dangerous derelict vessel incidents including the F/V Leading Lady and F/V Kupreanof, dozens of abandoned boats in Port Graham Bay, and regular derelict vessels taking up valuable moorage at the Port of Homer; and

**Whereas**, the State of Alaska has outdated statutes regarding derelict vessels which lack the ability to track vessel owners, agency enforcement authority, statewide coordination of response, funding or vessel insurance requirements; and

**Whereas**, neighboring states have dramatically strengthened their derelict vessel prevention laws in the past five years to better prevent, track and manage derelict vessels, including raising fees to support state management of derelict vessels and recognizing the value of vessel insurance for certain vessels on public waters; and

**Whereas**, in 1990 the Alaska legislature passed a resolution acknowledging the need to better understand and address the state's existing and growing problem of derelict vessels; and

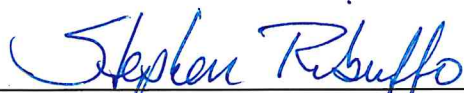
**Whereas**, provisions in SB92 will help protect harbor infrastructure, keep valuable moorage space in our harbors available, and will prevent unsustainable economic, environmental and navigational hazards throughout Alaska's waters; and

**Whereas**, the proposed changes will improve pro-active communication and coordination between all affected stakeholders;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Cook Inlet Harbor Safety Committee fully supports the passage by the state legislature of Senate Bill 92.

**PASSED AND APPROVED ON THE** 29<sup>th</sup> **DAY OF** Nov, 2017.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_



Stephen Ribuffo, Chairman of the Cook Inlet Harbor Safety Committee