



ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE

RESOLUTION #2017-11

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF FULL FUNDING FOR THE STATE OF ALASKA MUNICIPAL HARBOR FACILITY GRANT PROGRAM IN THE FY2018 STATE CAPITAL BUDGET

WHEREAS, the Alaska Municipal League recognizes the majority of the public boat harbors in Alaska were constructed by the State during the 1060s and the 1970s; and

WHEREAS, these harbor facilities represent critical transportation links and are the transportation hubs for waterfront commerce and economic development in Alaska 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 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, AML 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 costs; and

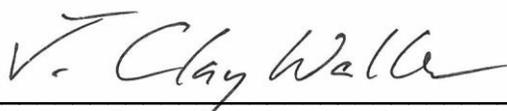
WHEREAS, the municipalities of the City of Kake, the City of Ketchikan, the City and Borough of Sitka, the Municipality of Skagway, the City of Valdez and the City and Borough of Wrangell have offered to contribution \$18,160,055 in local match funding for FY18 towards seven harbor projects of significant 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 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 Alaska Municipal League urges full funding by the Governor and the Alaska Legislature for the State of Alaska’s Municipal Harbor Facility Grant Program in the FY18 State Capital Budget, in order to ensure enhanced safety and economic prosperity among Alaskan coastal communities.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Alaska Municipal League on this 18th day of November, 2016.

Signed: 

Mayor Clay Walker, President, Alaska Municipal League

Attest: 

Kathie Wasserman, Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League



ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE

RESOLUTION #2017-13

A RESOLUTION OF THE ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE IN SUPPORT OF PROPOSED CHANGES TO ALASKA STATUTES 30.30 AND 05.25, IMPROVING THE MANAGEMENT AND PREVENTION OF DERELICT VESSELS

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 the past year alone, there have been numerous derelict vessel situations that have cost the state, municipalities and the federal government, considerable expense, including two ex-Navy tugs in Adak, abandoned barges in Steamboat Slough near Bethel, and the tug Challenger that sank off Juneau; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Municipal League recognizes the widespread costs and the environmental and navigational risks for both municipalities and the state, associated with derelict vessels; 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 requiring vessel insurance; and

WHEREAS, in 1990, the Alaska Legislature passed a resolution acknowledging the need to better understand and address the existing and growing problem of derelict vessels around the state; 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, in 2013, the Alaska Clean Harbors program convened an ad-hoc derelict vessel task force at the urging of the Alaska Association of Harbormasters and Port Administrators which includes representatives from state and federal agencies, as well as the Alaska Association of Harbormasters and Port Administrators, regional tribal representatives, federal and state legislative offices, and private industry; and

WHEREAS, over nine full-day meetings, the task force developed thoughtful, robust and meaningful proposed changes that will help all stakeholders around the state, including harbor facilities better address and prevent derelict vessels; and

WHEREAS, these changes will protect municipal harbor infrastructure, keep valuable moorage space in harbors available, and will prevent unsustainable economic, environmental and navigational hazards; and

WHEREAS, the proposed changes will improve communication and coordination between Alaska's harbors and state and federal agencies, directly leading to decreased costs associated with managing derelict vessels.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League fully supports the passage by the State Legislature, of all proposed revisions in Alaska Statutes 30.30 and 05.25.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Alaska Municipal League on this 18th day of November, 2016.

Signed: 
Mayor Clay Walker, President, Alaska Municipal League

Attest: 
Kathie Wasserman, Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League