



AAHPA

Alaska Association of Harbormasters & Port Administrators

602 Shellfish Ave
Homer, AK 99603
Phone: (907)299-9000

July 19, 2019

Dear Governor Dunleavy and Members of the Alaska Legislature,

The Alaska Association of Harbormasters and Port Administrators respectfully disagrees with the line-item veto in the Capital Budget of \$1.6M for the FY20 Municipal Harbor Matching Grant Program.

In February, our Board of Directors met with Governor Dunleavy and many legislators from around the state, and we were encouraged by your support of Alaska's port and harbor infrastructure and your understanding of the 'skin in the game' by municipalities as part of this program. Every state dollar is matched 1:1 with local funds to execute these critical infrastructure upgrades in Alaska's harbors.

Five municipalities applied for FY20 Harbor Matching Grant funds, together able to commit \$7.4M in local funds for a total of \$14M+ in potential capital harbor projects across the state. These projects not only recapitalize critical harbor infrastructure, but they infuse funds into the local economies, engaging the many vendors providing engineering, fabrication, and construction support to make them happen.

In the legislature's FY20 Capital budget, \$1.6M was re-allocated to the Harbor Matching Grant program from other harbor facility projects completed under the harbor facility grant program in the communities of Nome, Seldovia, and Sitka. The comments for the veto line-item state that, "Funding for projects that are complete should lapse and new capital projects should be established." With all due respect, the AAHPA would remind the Governor and the Legislature that the Harbor Facility Grant program does exactly that – it establishes needed capital projects for harbor facilities across the state that meet a multitude of strict guidelines, are competitively scored by ADOT, and that have 1:1 funding support from the community. We strongly believe that funding should be responsibly re-allocated back to the Harbor Facility Grant program to fund the highest scoring project(s) for FY20 through the State's established and very effective system.

The AAHPA Board of Directors and I are always at your service to provide assistance and insight into the infrastructure needs of Alaska's ports and harbors, and their impact and importance statewide.

Sincerely,

Carl Uchytel, P.E.

President

Alaska Association of Harbormasters & Port Administrators