



## ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE

### RESOLUTION #2018-07

#### **A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF FULL FUNDING (\$9,820,141) FOR THE STATE OF ALASKA MUNICIPAL HARBOR FACILITY GRANT PROGRAM IN THE FY 2019 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 1960s and 1970s; 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**, these harbor facilities are ports of refuge and areas for protection for ocean-going vessels and fishermen throughout the state, 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 in poor condition at the time of transfer due to the state's failure to keep up with deferred maintenance; 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 harbor masters 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 in 2006 to create the Municipal Harbor Facility Grant program, AS 29.60.800; and

**WHEREAS**, the Alaska Municipal League 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 cost; and

**WHEREAS**, the Municipality of Anchorage, the City & Borough of Juneau, the City of Ketchikan, the City & Borough of Sitka, the City of Whale Pass and the City of Whittier have all offered to contribute \$9,820,141 in local match funding for FY2019 towards eight 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 FY 2019 State Capitol Budget, in order to ensure enhanced safety and economic prosperity among Alaskan coastal communities.

**PASSED AND APPROVED** by the Alaska Municipal League on this 17<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2017.

Signed:   
Pat Branson, President, Alaska Municipal League

Attest:   
Kathie Wasserman, Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League