

CITY OF UNALASKA
UNALASKA, ALASKA

RESOLUTION 2018-19

A RESOLUTION OF THE UNALASKA CITY COUNCIL SUPPORTING THE PASSAGE
OF SENATE BILL 92

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 two years 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, the tug Challenger that sunk off Juneau, and the Fishing Vessel Akutan in Captain's Bay in Unalaska; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Association of Harbormasters and Port Administrators 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 track, manage, and ultimately prevent 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WHEREAS, the State of Alaska's statutes regarding derelict vessels are outdated, which hampers agency enforcement authority, statewide coordination of response, funding or vessel insurance requirements; and the ability to track vessel owners; and

WHEREAS, in 2013 the AAHPA supported the creation of the ad-hoc Derelict Vessel Task Force which includes representatives from state and federal agencies as well as the AAHPA, 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, this will help our members protect harbor infrastructure, keep valuable moorage space in our harbors available, and prevent environmental and navigational hazards; and

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

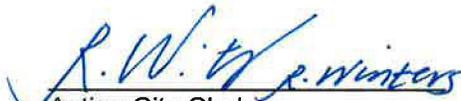
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Unalaska City Council fully supports the passage by the state legislature of Senate Bill 92.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by a duly constituted quorum of the Unalaska City Council on February 13, 2018.



Dennis Robinson
Vice Mayor

ATTEST:



Acting City Clerk

