



RESOLUTION 19-24

A RESOLUTION OF THE ALEUTIANS EAST BOROUGH ASSEMBLY URGING THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO APPROVE THE BUY AMERICA WAIVER FOR ALASKA'S M/V TUSTUMENA REPLACEMENT PROJECT

WHEREAS, ferry service provided by the Alaska Marine Highway System (AMHS), primarily by the 54-year-old M/V Tustumena, is vitally important to the continued well-being of the communities of the Aleutians East Borough (“Borough”) and other Alaska coastal communities; and

WHEREAS, the seasonal twice a month ferry that runs to southwest Alaska is a lifeline for travelers in our region including students, teachers, family relative, fisherman, health workers and others; and

WHEREAS, the ferry is also a critical link for the transport of vehicles, equipment and goods; and

WHEREAS, the Tustumena has outlived its useful life and needs to be replaced to ensure continued safe and reliable ferry service to the region; and

WHEREAS, the Borough understands the State of Alaska has requested Buy America Act waivers for limited components of the Tustumena’s replacement vessel and we believe this request meets the criteria for the granting of this waiver; and

WHEREAS, the Borough understands the need to protect American manufacturing jobs, but it believes the waiver process is the remedy to address the unintended consequences of strictly applying the Buy America Act when it impedes a major U.S.-based construction project or proves to damage other parts of the U.S. economy and jobs reliant on reliable renewable resource gathering, processing, and transportation; and

WHEREAS, replacing the Tustumena as soon as possible is a top priority for the Borough and it respectfully urges the U.S Department of Transportation to approve the requested waiver expeditiously so that the new ship can go out to bid as soon as possible; and

WHEREAS, unwarranted delay will needlessly damage the economy and quality of life for the communities served by the AMHS.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Aleutians East Borough Assembly that the Aleutians East Borough urges the U.S. Department of Transportation to approve the Buy America waiver for Alaska's M/V Tustumena Replacement Project.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Aleutians East Borough on this day 8th day of November 2018.



Alvin D. Osterback, Mayor

ATTEST:



Tina Anderson, Clerk