

## RESOLUTION 24-12

### **A RESOLUTION OF THE ALEUTIANS EAST BOROUGH SUPPORTING THE FULL FUNDING (\$7,644,677) FOR THE STATE OF ALASKA HARBOR FACILITY GRANT PROGRAM IN THE FY 2025 STATE CAPITAL BUDGET**

**WHEREAS**, 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 of protection for ocean-going vessels, and serve as essential transportation hubs to coastal Alaskan communities for supplies, trade goods and services and connections to the work market for our exports and imports; and

**WHEREAS**, over the last 30 years, the State of Alaska 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 Alaska 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**, the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities utilizes a beneficial 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 Aleutians East Borough has not submitted a project for the FY2025 Harbor Facility Grant Program but still supports the municipalities of Sitka and Juneau who have committed to contribute half of their project cost in local matching funding for FY2025 towards harbor projects of significant importance locally as required in the Harbor Facility Grant Program; and

**WHEREAS**, completion of these harbor facility projects is dependent on the 50% match from the State of Alaska's Harbor Facility Grant Program; and

**WHEREAS**, the Municipal Harbor Grant Program has only been fully funded twice in the last fifteen years; and

**WHEREAS**, a survey done by the Alaska Municipal League of Alaska's ports and harbors found that from the respondents, the backlog of projects necessary to repair and replace former State-owned harbors has increased to at least \$500,000,000; and

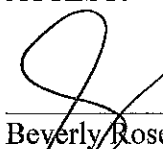
**WHEREAS**, given that Alaska is a maritime state and that our harbors are foundational to both our way of life and the economy of this great State it is in the public's best interest to maintain this critical infrastructure by using State, Local and Federal funds to recapitalize the crucial harbor moorage infrastructure statewide.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** the Aleutians East Borough urges full funding by the Governor and the Alaska Legislature for the State of Alaska's Municipal Harbor Facility Grant Program in the FY2025 State Capital Budget in order to ensure enhanced safety and economic prosperity among Alaskan coastal communities.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Aleutians East Borough on this 16<sup>th</sup> Day of November 2023.

  
Alvin D. Osterback, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Beverly Rosete, Clerk