

A Resolution of the Haines Borough Assembly in Support of Raising the Maximum Available Alaska Department of Transportation Harbor Facility Grant to \$7,500,000 for Eligible Projects on an Annual Basis.

WHEREAS, the Senate Bill 291 established the Municipal Harbor Facility Grant Program on July 1, 2006 in which the total amount of grant money made available to a municipality was limited to not exceed \$5,000,000 in any fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, the Municipal Harbor Facility Grant is the single most significant funding tool available to Alaska Harbormaster to plan, maintain and recapitalize port and harbor infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, testimony from a legislator advocate stated "SB 291 would establish a harbor facility grant fund to which the Legislature would make an annual appropriation from the watercraft fuel tax account and from the state portion of the fisheries business tax. Both sources come from the marine industry so harbor users would generate the revenue for the program"; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 291 was envisioned to cap the funds that can be used per community, per year at \$5 million so that a large community couldn't take all the available funds in any given year. The expectation is that communities would establish, maintain, and run an enterprise fund into perpetuity; 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 at or near the end of their service life at the time of transfer, to local municipalities; and

WHEREAS, these harbor facilities continue to require substantial municipal financial investment to maintain and for capital improvement projects; and

WHEREAS, construction, shipping and mobilization costs to remote portions of Alaska have outpaced the national consumer price index since the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the United State Bureau of Labor Statistics CPI calculator indicates that \$5 million in July 2006 when the Senate Bill 291 was enacted would be inflated to \$7,511,000 as of July 2023.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Haines Borough Assembly supports the Alaska Association of Harbormaster and Port Administrators urging the Governor and the Alaska Legislature to amend AS 29.60.800 raising the maximum Harbor facility grant fund award to \$7,500,000 per eligible project.

Adopted by a duly-constituted quorum of the Haines Borough Assembly on this 28th day of November, 2023.

Attest:

Alekka Fullerton, MMC, Borough Clerk



Thomas C. Morphet, Mayor