

**CITY OF HOMER
HOMER, ALASKA**

City Manager/Port Director

RESOLUTION 23-121

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF HOMER, ALASKA, IN
SUPPORT OF FULL FUNDING OF \$7,644,677 FOR THE STATE OF
ALASKA MUNICIPAL 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, The harbor facilities in Alaska are ports of refuge for ocean going vessels, and serve as essential transportation hubs to coastal Alaskan communities for supplies, trade in goods and services and connections to the world market for our exports and imports; 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 had infrastructure 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 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, supported by the Alaska Association of Harbor Masters 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

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46 WHEREAS, During the last fifteen years the Municipal Harbor Facility Grant Program has
47 only been fully funded twice; and

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49 WHEREAS, A survey conducted by the Alaska Municipal league of Alaska's ports found
50 that the backlog of projects necessary to repair and replace former State-owned harbors has
51 increased to over \$500,000,000; and

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

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58 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of Homer, Alaska, urges full
59 funding by the Governor and the Alaska Legislature for the State of Alaska's Municipal Harbor
60 Facility Grant Program in the FY 2025 State Capital Budget in order to ensure enhanced safety
61 and economic prosperity among Alaskan coastal communities.

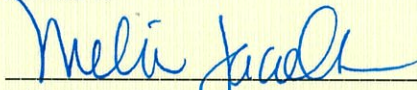
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63 PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Homer City Council this 13th day of November, 2023.

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66 CITY OF HOMER

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69 KEN CASTNER, MAYOR

70 ATTEST:

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73 MELISSA JACOBSEN, MMC, CITY CLERK

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75 Fiscal note: N/A

