

**CITY OF HOMER
HOMER, ALASKA**

City Manager/
Port Director

RESOLUTION 24-120

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF HOMER, ALASKA
URGING THE GOVERNOR AND ALASKA STATE LEGISLATORS TO
FULLY FUND THE STATE OF ALASKA MUNICIPAL HARBOR FACILITY
GRANT PROGRAM IN THE FY 2026 STATE CAPITAL BUDGET IN
ORDER TO ENSURE ENHANCED SAFETY AND ECONOMIC
PROSPERITY AMONG ALASKAN COASTAL COMMUNITIES.

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,
serve as essential transportation hubs to coastal Alaskan communities for supplies, trade in
goods and services, and as 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 were at, or near the end of their service
life at the time of transfer, to local municipalities; and

WHEREAS, 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 via Alaska Statute
29.60.800; and

WHEREAS, The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (AKDOT/PF)
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, municipalities have committed to invest 100% of the design and permitting costs and 50% of the construction cost; and

WHEREAS, The municipalities of Unalaska, Sitka and Juneau have committed to contribute half of their project cost in local match funding for FY2025 towards harbor projects of significant importance locally as required by the Municipal Harbor Facility Grant Program; and

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

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

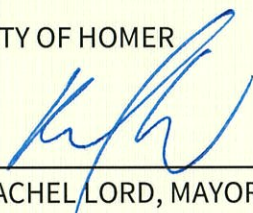
WHEREAS, A survey done by the Alaska Municipal League of Alaska's ports and harbors found that, from the respondents, the backlog of projects necessary to repair and replace former State-owned harbors has increased to at least \$500,000,000; and

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 that the City Council of Homer, Alaska hereby urges the Governor and the Alaska Legislature fully fund the State of Alaska's Municipal Harbor Facility Grant Program in the FY 2026 State Capital Budget in order to ensure enhanced safety and economic prosperity among Alaskan coastal communities.


PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Homer City Council this 25th day of November, 2024.

CITY OF HOMER



RACHEL LORD, MAYOR

ATTEST:



RENEE KRAUSE, MMC, CITY CLERK

Fiscal Note: NA

