

**CITY OF HOMER  
HOMER, ALASKA**

City Manager/  
Port Director

**RESOLUTION 24-121**

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF HOMER, ALASKA  
EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR RAISING THE MAXIMUM AVAILABLE  
MUNICIPAL HARBOR FACILITY GRANT TO \$7,500,000 FOR  
ELIGIBLE PROJECTS ON AN ANNUAL BASIS.

WHEREAS, 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 a fiscal year; and

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

WHEREAS, Testimony from a legislator advocate stated "*SB291 would establish the municipal 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 could not take all the available funds in any given year; and

WHEREAS, 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

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 States Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index calculator indicates that \$5 million in July 2006 when Senate Bill 291 was enacted would be inflated to \$7,511,000 as of July 2023.

WHEREAS, The City of Homer urges the Governor and Alaska Legislature to Amend Alaska Statutes 29.60.800 raising the maximum Harbor Facility Grant Fund Award to \$7,500,000 per eligible project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of Homer, Alaska supports raising the maximum available Municipal Harbor Facility Grant to \$7,500,000 for eligible projects on an annual basis.

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

CITY OF HOMER

RACHEL LORD, MAYOR

ATTEST:

RENEE KRAUSE, MMC, CITY CLERK

Fiscal Note: NA

