

Presented by: The Manager  
Presented: 10/23/2023  
Drafted by: R. Palmer III

**RESOLUTION OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA**

**Serial No. 3045**

**A Resolution of the City and Borough of Juneau Supporting Full Funding (\$7,644,677) for the State of Alaska Harbor Facility Grant Program in the Fiscal Year 2025 State Capital Budget.**

WHEREAS, the majority of the public boat harbors in Alaska were constructed by the State in the early years of Statehood in the 1960s and 1970s; and

WHEREAS, Alaska’s harbor facilities represent critical transportation links, are vital public infrastructure, and are essential hubs for waterfront commerce that supports beneficial economic activity in Alaskan coastal communities; and

WHEREAS, the harbor facilities in Alaskan coastal communities are ports of refuge for ocean-going vessels, and serve as the gateway for supplies, trade in goods and services, and connections to national and global markets for Alaskan exports and imports; and

WHEREAS, over the course of the past 30 years, the State of Alaska has transferred ownership of formerly State-owned harbors to local governments, allowing local control, but also significantly increasing the operational and maintenance costs that must be borne by local governments; and

WHEREAS, the majority of former State harbor facilities transferred to municipalities were at the time of transfer at or near the end of their serviceable lives; and

WHEREAS, Alaska’s municipalities have strived to allocate the resources necessary to maintain and, when possible, improve harbor facilities transferred to them by the State of Alaska, but have faced increasing challenges in managing the significant financial burdens attendant on the harbor facilities formerly owned and maintained by the State; and

WHEREAS, the Governor and the Alaska Legislature recognized the magnitude of the problem with the fiscal burden placed on local governments by the transfer of State harbor facilities to local governments, and created the Harbor Facility Grant Program in 2006 with the passage of Senate Bill 291; 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

44 WHEREAS, for each harbor facility grant application, these municipalities have  
45 committed to invest 100% of the design and permitting costs and 50% of the construction  
46 cost; and

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48 WHEREAS, the municipalities of the Sitka and Juneau have committed to contribute half  
49 of their project cost in local match funding for Fiscal Year 2025 towards harbor projects of  
50 significant importance locally as required in the Harbor Facility Grant Program; and

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

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55 WHEREAS, during the last 15 years the Municipal Harbor Facility Grant Program has  
56 only been fully funded twice; and

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

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

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67 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF  
68 JUNEAU, ALASKA:

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70 **Section 1.** The Governor of Alaska and the Alaska Legislature are respectfully urged  
71 to fund the State of Alaska Harbor Facility Grant Program in the Fiscal Year 2025 State  
72 Capital Budget in the amount of \$7,644,677 to enhance and elevate the safety, well-being,  
73 and economic prosperity of Alaskan coastal communities.

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75 **Section 2. Effective Date.** This resolution shall be effective immediately after its  
76 adoption.

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78 Adopted this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2023.

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81 Beth A. Weldon, Mayor

82 Attest:

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84 \_\_\_\_\_  
85 Elizabeth J. McEwen, Municipal Clerk  
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