



RESOLUTION 2011-01

A resolution of the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference in support of full funding for the State of Alaska Municipal Harbor Facility Grant Program in the FY2012 capital budget

WHEREAS, harbor facilities represent critical transportation links and are the transportation hubs for waterfront commerce and economic development in Alaskan coastal communities; and

WHEREAS, harbor facilities are ports of refuge and areas for protection for ocean-going vessels and fishermen throughout the State of Alaska, especially in Southwest Alaskan communities; and

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska and the municipalities built these harbor facilities; and

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska has transferred most of its harbor facilities to 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, supported by SWAMC, to create the Municipal Harbor Facility Grant program, AS 29.60.800; and

WHEREAS, the Municipal Harbor Facility Grant Program provides state assistance in the form of a matching 50/50 grant for municipal owned harbor facilities, to be administered by the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities; and

WHEREAS, SWAMC is pleased with the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities' administration process to review for eligibility, and to score and rank applicants to the Municipal Harbor Facility Grant 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 cost in addition to 50% of the construction cost; and

-MORE-

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

WHEREAS, the SWAMC representatives from the City of Kodiak in FY2008 , the City of Dillingham in FY2009, the City of King Cove in FY2009, and the City of Old Harbor in FY2009 have greatly benefited by receiving previous grant awards from the Municipal Harbor Facility Grant Program; and

WHEREAS, the SWAMC representatives from the Aleutians East Borough, the City of False Pass, the City of Port Lions, the City of Sand Point, and the City of Unalaska applied for Municipal Harbor Facility Grants in July 2010 which are pending full funding in the FY2012 capital budget; and

WHEREAS, eleven Alaskan coastal communities submitted grants totaling \$21,084,645, which if fully matched by the State of Alaska would result in over \$42 million of construction work that would stimulate local economies, create safer and more-functional harbors for the fishing fleets of Southwest Alaskan coastal communities, and create job opportunities for local residents, which is especially important in these times of economic hardship.

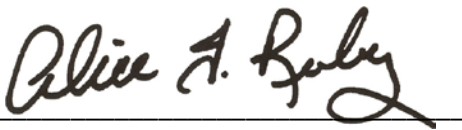
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Membership of the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference urges full funding by the Governor and the Alaska Legislature for the State of Alaska's Municipal Harbor Facility Grant Program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that SWAMC Membership encourages the SWAMC Legislative Delegation to support the Municipal Harbor Facility Grant Program in order to ensure enhanced safety and economic prosperity among Alaskan coastal communities.

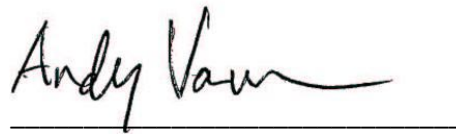
PASSED AND ADOPTED by a duly constituted Quorum of the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference Board of Directors this 16th day of September, 2010.

IN WITNESS THERETO:

ATTEST:



Alice Ruby, President



Andy Varner, Executive Director