

CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA

RESOLUTION NO. 2011-31

**A RESOLUTION OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA
URGING FULL FUNDING FOR THE STATE OF ALASKA MUNICIPAL HARBOR
FACILITY GRANT PROGRAM IN THE FY 2013 STATE CAPITAL BUDGET**

WHEREAS, the City and Borough of Sitka recognizes the majority of the public boat harbors in Alaska where 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, these harbor facilities are ports of refuge and protection for ocean-going vessels and fishermen throughout the State of Alaska, especially in coastal Alaskan communities; and

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska during the past ten years has transferred ownership to local municipalities 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; and

WHEREAS, the municipalities took over these important infrastructures knowing the harbor facilities were in poor condition due to the state's inability 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, legislation was enacted and supported by City and Borough of Sitka, to create the State of Alaska's Municipal Harbor Facility Grant Program; and

WHEREAS, the City and Borough of Sitka, is pleased with the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities administrative process to review, score and rank applicants to the Municipal Harbor Facility Grant Program; and

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

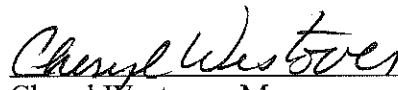
WHEREAS, completion of these harbor facility projects is totally dependent on the 50 percent match from the State of Alaska's Municipal Harbor Facility Grant Program; and

WHEREAS, during the last five years the Municipal Harbor Facility Grant Program has only been fully funded once; and

WHEREAS, during the last five years the backlog of projects necessary to repair and replace these former state owned harbors has increased to over \$90,000,000.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City and Borough of Sitka urges full funding of the State of Alaska's Municipal Harbor Facility Grant Program in the FY 2013 State Capital Budget in order to ensure and enhance safety and maintain these severely needed economic engines within Alaska's coastal communities.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED by the Assembly of the City and Borough of Sitka, Alaska on this 29th day of November, 2011


Cheryl Westover, Mayor

ATTEST:


Colleen Ingman, MMC
Municipal Clerk