

2013



RESOLUTION PACKET

Adopted: November 16, 2012

Alaska Municipal League
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Juneau, Alaska 99801
(907) 586-1325

ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE

FY 2013 RESOLUTIONS

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ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE

RESOLUTION #2013-01

A RESOLUTION STRONGLY SUPPORTING EFFORTS OF THE ALASKA CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO SECURE FEDERAL REVENUE SHARING FROM ALASKA OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS DEVELOPMENT AND URGING THE ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE TO PASS LEGISLATION TO PUT THE STATE OF ALASKA SHARE OF ANY SUCH REVENUE SHARING INTO AN ALASKA ENERGY FUND TO SUPPORT COMMUNITY ENERGY PROJECTS.

WHEREAS, Alaska's Washington D.C. delegation is attempting to push through an amendment that would give Alaska and other coastal states a significant cut of any offshore oil and gas revenues; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Geological Survey estimates there is between 25 to 27 billion barrels of oil in the Chukchi and Beaufort Seas; and

WHEREAS, the federal government currently collects rent on leases in the Outer Continental Shelf whether they are producing or not and collects royalties in areas where oil and gas production is occurring; and

WHEREAS, the Interior Department share some of that income with states, including Alaska; and

WHEREAS, Alaska receives no money on oil produced offshore; and

WHEREAS, the pending amendments would request Alaska receiving 37.5% of royalties on offshore production; 20% of which would be passed on to local communities that shoulder the burden of roads, docks, pipelines and other facilities; and

WHEREAS, if Alaska had the same 37.5% revenue sharing from offshore oil and gas development as it applies to the Gulf of Mexico, our state would have received \$900 million from the 2008 federal offshore lease sale for the Beaufort and Chukchi Seas; and

WHEREAS, Alaska's coastal communities, impacted by development in the Arctic, will realize impacts on their services, roads, hospitals, airports, etc.; and

WHEREAS, Alaska communities are paying some of the highest energy prices in the nation; and

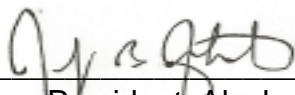
WHEREAS, Alaska communities are working on critical energy projects to reduce prices; and

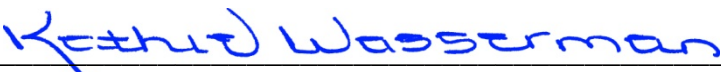
WHEREAS, as the State is supportive of receiving money based on offshore oil and gas development within their jurisdiction, the municipalities of Alaska also are supportive of a portion of the lease money being shared with local governments impacted by oil and gas exploration and development; and

WHEREAS, the Department of the Interior will have a lease sale for the Chukchi Sea in 2016 and the Beaufort Sea in 2017.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League strongly supports efforts of the Alaska Congressional Delegation to secure federal revenue sharing from Alaska offshore oil and gas development and urges the Alaska State Legislature to pass legislation to put the State of Alaska share of any such revenue sharing into an Alaska Energy Fund to support community energy projects.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE ON THIS 16TH DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2012.

Signed:  _____
Jennifer Johnston, President, Alaska Municipal League

Attest:  _____
Kathie Wasserman, Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League



ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE

RESOLUTION #2013-02

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING REPEAL OF AS 39.35.625, A STATUTE REQUIRING TERMINATION STUDIES, AND A PROVISION FOR A SUSTAINABLE SALARY BASE TO PAY OFF PERS UNFUNDED OBLIGATIONS

WHEREAS, the Alaska State Legislature has helped Alaska's municipalities tremendously in adopting a rate of 22% of salary to help fund the current costs and the unfunded liability of the PERS/TRS system; and

WHEREAS, Alaska Legislators have worked hard to develop a fair and equitable solution to an existing problem and never intended to create inequitable financial damage to any PERS member employer or negatively interfere with the current or future delivery of any member's services or programs; and

WHEREAS, application of AS 39.35.625 requires an employer that terminates participation of a department, group or other classification of employees in the plan, to undergo a termination study that may result in incurring: 1) the cost of the termination study; 2) costs determined by the study to be owed to PERS due to the change; and 3) The cost of past service cost rate times the termination salaries until unfunded is paid off. These three cost increments may run to many hundreds of thousands of dollars to millions for PERS employers; and

WHEREAS, termination studies nullify the intent of legislation to establish a single uniform statutory contribution rate for PERS employers, as certain employers will be required to pay the PERS termination costs in addition to the amounts required under the single uniform contribution rate; and

WHEREAS, municipalities, in the future, may find themselves paying more toward the unfunded obligation every pay period for positions that no longer exist, than for existing and/or current positions; and

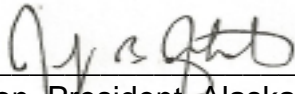
WHEREAS, AS 39.35.625 creates an inequitable impact on small PERS employers versus larger PERS employers; and

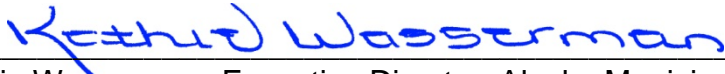
WHEREAS, concerns that employers would purposely act in a manner that jeopardizes payment of the unfunded obligation, and thus shrink the salary base that pays off the unfunded obligation, has not occurred.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League, while supporting a sustainable salary base to pay off the PERS unfunded obligation, believes

that AS 39.35.625 and any other similar statutes or regulations that require termination studies, should be repealed.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE ON THE 16TH DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2012.

Signed:  _____
Jennifer Johnston, President, Alaska Municipal League

Attest:  _____
Kathie Wasserman, Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League



ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE

RESOLUTION # 2013-03

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE CONTINUATION OF THE CURRENT REVENUE SHARING PROGRAM CURRENTLY IN PLACE WITH A \$ 25 MILLION SUPPLEMENTAL TO ADDRESS ENERGY NEEDS

WHEREAS, the Alaska Statehood Act and the Alaska Constitution contemplate strong and vibrant local government units exercising maximum local control; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Municipal League commends the Governor and the Legislature for approving and funding the Municipal Revenue Sharing program which established a \$60 million annual revenue sharing program; and

WHEREAS, local governments are experiencing significant financial pressure resulting from inflation, high energy costs and a faltering economy; and

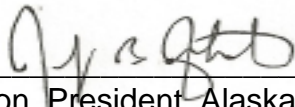
WHEREAS, in 1985, annual Revenue Sharing was \$141 million, at a time when the price of oil was approximately \$20 per barrel; and

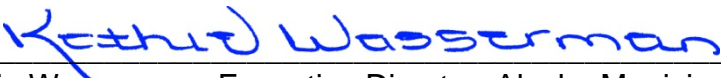
WHEREAS, maintaining \$60 million in annual Revenue Sharing is vital to the health of Alaskan communities in providing essential local services and/or keeping property taxes down; and

WHEREAS, it is uncertain that the 2012 calendar year revenues, generated under oil tax surcharges (AS 43.55.011 (g)) will be sufficient to fund the annual deposit to the Community Revenue Sharing fund.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League urges the Governor and the Legislature to appropriate sufficient funds to maintain the annual \$60 million Revenue Sharing payments for the fiscal years 2013 and beyond, as a vital component of the state Operating Budget, plus a supplemental of \$25 million to help with catastrophic energy costs.

**PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE ON THIS 16TH
DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2012.**

Signed: 
Jennifer Johnston, President, Alaska Municipal League

Attest: 
Kathie Wasserman, Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League



ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE

RESOLUTION #2013-05

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THAT ANY EXISTING OR FUTURE STATE OR FEDERAL LEGISLATION OR RULE THAT REQUIRES AN IMPLEMENTATION OF OPERATION COST, SHALL BE FULLY FUNDED BY THE IMPLEMENTING AGENCY. THIS INCLUDES "OPTIONAL" EXEMPTIONS HANDED DOWN TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS THAT WILL DIMINSH THE LOCAL TAX BASE

WHEREAS, unfunded mandates require the expenditures of funds without providing sufficient state resources to do so, and/or reduce the authority of cities and boroughs to raise revenues; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Municipal League believes unfunded mandates are irresponsible and misleading, because local elected officials are held accountable to local taxpayers for fiscal decisions they cannot control; and

WHEREAS, every year, bills are introduced by the Alaska State Legislature or the United States Congress that contain unfunded mandates; and

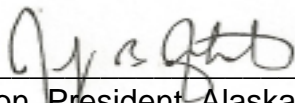
WHEREAS, one governmental entity can freely spend the money of another governmental entity without consequence or assessment of costs versus benefits; and

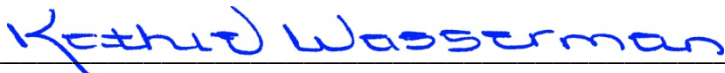
WHEREAS, in light of recent budget cuts and further fiscal uncertainties faced by cities and boroughs throughout the state, we feel this practice must stop; and

WHEREAS, the League is not passing judgment on the merits of these proposed unfunded mandates; we simply ask the Legislature and Congress to fund its own ideas.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League requests that any existing or future state or federal legislation or rule that requires an implementation of operation cost, shall be fully funded by the implementing agency. This includes "optional" exemptions handed down to local governments that will diminish the local tax base.

**PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE ON THIS 16TH
DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2012.**

Signed:  _____
Jennifer Johnston, President, Alaska Municipal League

Attest:  _____
Kathie Wasserman, Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League



ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE

RESOLUTION # 2013-06

A RESOLUTION OF THE ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE OBJECTING TO THE AUGUST 1, 2012 IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY'S (EPA) EMISSION CONTROL AREA RULE

WHEREAS, the EPA's new "Emission Control Area" (ECA) rule was established through the United Nations "International Maritime Organization" (IMO). The United States being signatories to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, (MARPOL) through the IMO establishes the new ECA standards through Annex VI of the MARPOL Convention; and

WHEREAS, the new ECA standards required 1% fuel sulfur content by August 1, 2012, all along the west coast (North American ECA) out to 200 miles offshore, and by 2015 will require 0.1% fuel sulfur content for same area; and

WHEREAS, the availability of compliant fuel and other technologies that would allow for the goal of reducing emissions of ozone depleting substances, nitrogen oxides (NOx), sulfur oxides (SOx) and tanker cargo emissions (VOCs) is questionable; and

WHEREAS, shipping companies are looking at ways to realistically comply with these new rules through fuel availability, fuel mixing, stack scrubbing, etc.; and

WHEREAS, the Cruise industry is one of the major components of economic development in the coastal areas of the state for five months of the year; and

WHEREAS, the Cruise Line industry is looking at using the "Equivalency Compliance Standard" to reduce its emissions within the ECA boundaries of North America; and

WHEREAS, the potential effect on the economy of Alaska, due to the industry redeploing vessels because of the costs of doing business within the North American ECA area could be devastating; and

WHEREAS, it appears that the air testing and modeling studies used by EPA to justify the new standards, seem in question for this area; and

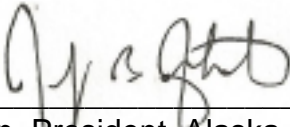
WHEREAS, all Alaskan local governments desire good air quality standards based on sound modeling and testing for its citizens.

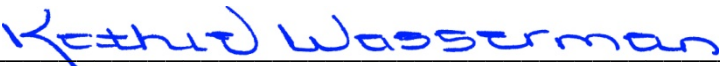
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League requests the EPA delay implementation of the ECA standards until the questions concerning the ECA are resolved, and at the very least, allow the shipping and cruise line industries to

adopt the "Equivalency Compliance Standard" to mitigate the disastrous effects the August 1st mandate could have on our local economy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League supports the State of Alaska's efforts to seek relief by legal means from the enforcement of the ECA in the waters off the coast of Alaska.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE ON THIS 16TH DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2012.

Signed:  _____
Jennifer Johnston, President, Alaska Municipal League

Attest:  _____
Kathie Wasserman, Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League



ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE

RESOLUTION #2013-07

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE RATIFICATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE LAW OF THE SEA (UNCLOS)

WHEREAS, the Bering Strait has seen an increase in ocean vessel traffic due to the opening of the Arctic, with economic opportunities in resource development along with international scientific research and tourism. Marine Exchange of Alaska updated records indicate that traffic traversing through the Bering Straits in 2009 was 262; 2010 at 242; and 2011 at 239. The Barents Sea Observer reported 34 vessels traversed through the Northern Sea route in 2011; and

WHEREAS, the Port of Nome has seen an increase in ocean vessel traffic with recorded docking data since 1990 at 30 port calls with the highest number of dockings in 2012 at 435; and

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska's Legislature passed HJR 22 in 2009, urging the United States Senate to ratify the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea; The State of Alaska's Northern Waters Task Force also recommends that the United State Senate ratify UNCLOS; and

WHEREAS, the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea permits member nations to claim an exclusive economic zone out to 200 nautical miles from shore, with an exclusive sovereign right to explore, manage, and develop all living and non-living resources within the exclusive economic zone (EEZ); and

WHEREAS, UNCLOS establishes general obligations for safeguarding the marine environment and protecting freedom of scientific research on the high seas, and creates a legal regime for controlling mineral resources exploitation in deep seabed areas beyond national jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, 162 nations have ratified UNCLOS and the United States became a signatory in 1994, but has not ratified the treaty, the United States is the only Arctic Nation that has not ratified the treaty; and

WHEREAS, other nations are conducting resource research north of the 200 mile EEZ that is connected to the United States continental shelf; and

WHEREAS, until the United States ratifies UNCLOS, the United States may not have the authority to promote its claims to an extended area of the continental shelf, refute

the claim of authority by other nations to exercise greater control over the Arctic, or take a permanent seat on the International Seabed Authority Council; and

WHEREAS, until the United States ratifies UNCLOS, the United States cannot participate in deliberation to amend provisions of the Convention that relate to:

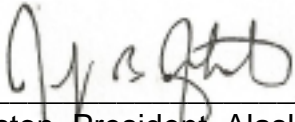
- Mineral resources in the Arctic Ocean;
- Conducting essential scientific research;
- Right of the United States to the use of the seas;
- Navigation and transit regime;
- Effects of the use of the seas in world economic development;
- Environmental protection; and
- National Security.

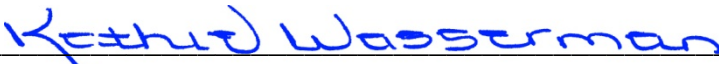
WHEREAS, UNCLOS will not interfere with the intelligence-gathering efforts of the United States or the navigational freedom of the United States military; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League urges the Alaska State Governor, the Alaska State Legislature and the Alaska Arctic Policy Commission to engage the United States of America to ratify the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League urges the President of the United States of America to make the ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, an administrative priority.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE ON THE 16TH DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2012.

Signed: 
Jennifer Johnston, President, Alaska Municipal League

Attest: 
Kathie Wasserman, Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League

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ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE

RESOLUTION #2013-08

A RESOLUTION BY THE ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE URGING THE STATE TO AGGRESSIVELY WORK TO FACILITATE AFFORDABLE ENERGY FOR ALL ALASKANS

WHEREAS, all Alaskans have been negatively impacted by some of the highest energy costs in the United States; and

WHEREAS, all communities stand to lose much of their economies as business finds it impossible to make a profit with such high energy costs; and

WHEREAS, all this, despite the fact that Alaska has an ample supply of energy resources with which to power Alaska and much of the lower 48; and

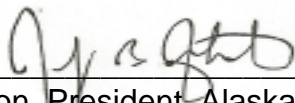
WHEREAS, the Alaska Municipal League successfully worked with the Legislature to retain Revenue Sharing only to watch most of it go to powering municipalities; and

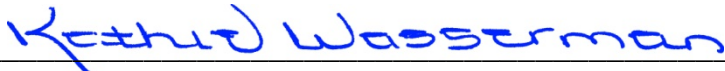
WHEREAS, the Alaska Municipal League believes there are some basic goals that should be of primary concern, to include:

- The support of oil and gas, as it remains the primary source of energy for most of Alaska;
- Support for research on and development of alternative and renewable energy sources, including, but not limited to, wind and hydro;
- The encouragement of connectivity between communities, as well as incentives for energy project funding and energy efficiency for all consumers;
- An actual time certain process that selects and prioritizes projects;
- Full funding of the PCE (Power Cost Equalization) Endowment Fund through state appropriations.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League urges the Alaska State Legislature to aggressively facilitate affordable energy for all Alaskans.

**PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE ON THIS 16TH
DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2012.**

Signed:  _____
Jennifer Johnston, President, Alaska Municipal League

Attest:  _____
Kathie Wasserman, Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League



ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE

RESOLUTION #2013-09

A RESOLUTION URGING THE ALASKA LEGISLATURE TO FUND A TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE FUND TO GENERATE MONEY FOR FAILING TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE

WHEREAS, Alaska's transportation system has fallen far behind the needs of Alaska for cost effective transportation which allows economic growth and the safe, cost-effective movement of people, goods, and services; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Highway System, the Alaska Marine Highway System, Alaska's airports, Alaska's ports and harbors and Alaska's local roads all need several years of significant funding for infrastructure improvement, upgrade and expansion; and

WHEREAS, the general appropriation process has resulted in significant underfunding of transportation infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the economic future of Alaska is highly dependent upon a quality, cost-effective transportation system; and

WHEREAS, the development of Alaska transportation infrastructure is dependent upon a steady and reliable stream of revenue; and

WHEREAS, the development of an energy policy that works for Alaska requires a quality transportation system in order to be successful; and

WHEREAS, estimates of annual funding needs for transportation infrastructure improvements, upgrades and expansions, exceed \$300 million per year; and

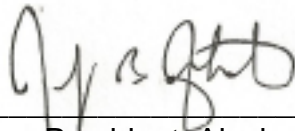
WHEREAS, the State of Alaska is in a position to seriously consider long-term transportation financing at this moment in history.

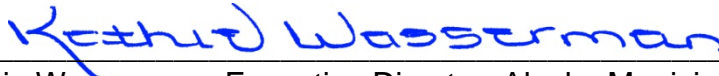
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League urges the Governor and the Alaska Legislature to establish a Transportation Infrastructure Fund for Alaska or other suitable and sustainable funding mechanisms that generate at least \$300 million annually to accomplish the following purposes:

- Generate investment earnings to develop transportation infrastructure in Alaska;
- Improve, upgrade and expand State of Alaska roads and highways;
- Improve, upgrade and expand the Alaska Marine Highway System;
- Improve, upgrade and expand the airports in Alaska;
- Improve, upgrade and expand Alaska's port and harbors;
- Provide regular funding to Alaska's communities to improve, upgrade and expand public transit and local roads built to local road standards.

AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that not less than 15% of the total funding will be allocated to each of the five programs each year (roads and highways, Alaska Marine Highway, airports, ports and harbors, public transit and local roads).

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE ON THIS 16TH DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2012.

Signed:  _____
Jennifer Johnston, President, Alaska Municipal League

Attest:  _____
Kathie Wasserman, Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League



ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE

RESOLUTION #2013-10

A RESOLUTION OF THE ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE IN SUPPORT OF FULL FUNDING FOR THE STATE OF ALASKA MUNICIPAL HARBOR FACILITY GRANT PROGRAM IN THE FY2014 CAPITAL BUDGET

WHEREAS, harbor facilities represent critical transportation links and are the transportation hubs for waterfront 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 Alaska, especially in coastal communities; and

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska has transferred most of its harbor facilities to municipalities; and

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

WHEREAS, the municipalities took over this important responsibility even though they knew these same harbor facilities were in poor condition at the time of the 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 State Legislature passed legislation, supported by the Alaska Municipal League, 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, the Alaska Municipal League is pleased with the DOT/PF's 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, the municipalities have committed to invest 100% of the design and permitting costs and 50% of the construction costs; and

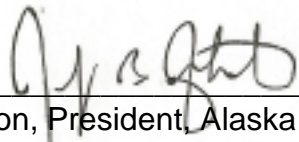
WHEREAS, many communities throughout Alaska have greatly benefitted from this program by receiving grants from the Municipal Harbor Facility Grant Program; and

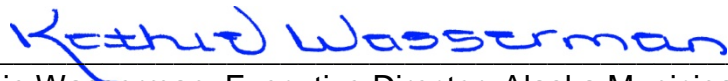
WHEREAS, many other communities have been recently scored and are currently eligible for Municipal Harbor Facility Grants; and

WHEREAS, all the money invested in these harbors by the state and matched by communities stimulates the economy, creates safer and more functional harbors for residents and for the fishing fleets and creates job opportunities for local residents and businesses, which is especially important in these times of economic hardship.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League urges full funding by the Governor and the Alaska Legislature to support the Municipal Harbor Facility Grant Program to ensure safety and economic prosperity among coastal communities.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE ON THIS 16TH DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2012.

Signed:  _____
Jennifer Johnston, President, Alaska Municipal League

Attest:  _____
Kathie Wasserman, Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League