

**Alaska Municipal League
Resolution #2020-18**

Requesting the Alaska State Legislature approve an infrastructure general obligation bond.

WHEREAS, there is a critical need for coastal infrastructure repair and maintenance in Alaska and the *Report Card for Alaska's Infrastructure 2017* by the Alaska Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers, awarded a grade of "D" to Alaska's ports and harbors; and

WHEREAS, Alaska has 72 ports and harbors facilities across the state with critical needs; and

WHEREAS, many ports, harbors, and docks need replacement or repair and have little financial ability to do so; and

WHEREAS, coastal infrastructure throughout the state plays a key role in local, state, and national economies; and

WHEREAS, many states in the Lower 48 take responsibility for maintaining coastal infrastructure, including the Maryland Port Administration which invested \$105.5 million in a new 50-foot berth for the Port of Baltimore, and the Florida State Transportation Trust Fund which allocates \$100 million annually to various seaport programs, among others; and

WHEREAS, a 2011 study on Alaska's ports and harbors recommended the State of Alaska create a Transportation Infrastructure Development Program to create a comprehensive baseline assessment of coastal infrastructure and state funding of such infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska has supported infrastructure projects across the state through voter-approved general obligation bonds, with a total of 51 bond packages being approved since statehood totaling \$2.2 billion, including a 2010 bond package for education infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the State Legislature must approve a general obligation bond package during the 2020 Legislative Session for a bond package to appear on the November 3, 2020 ballot; and

WHEREAS, Ports through the State of Alaska are in immediate need of maintenance and repair and cannot wait until the November 2022 election to undergo such repairs.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League supports funding critical coastal infrastructure throughout the state with general obligation bonds;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Alaska Municipal League requests the State Legislature approve a coastal infrastructure general obligation bond.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE ON THE 22nd DAY OF NOVEMBER 2019.

Signed: 

President, Alaska Municipal League

Attest: 

Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League