

# ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE ADOPTED RESOLUTIONS

## Resolution #2024-10

### **A resolution requesting the Alaska State Legislature approve a coastal infrastructure general obligation bond for the 2024 election.**

WHEREAS, Alaska has the most miles of coastline of any U.S. state, and communities maintain a total of 40 port and harbor facilities; and

WHEREAS, ports, harbors, and other maritime facilities are critical infrastructure for residents and businesses, and serve important functions such as: food security, fuel delivery, transportation and logistics, resource extraction, commercial fishing, tourism, hospitality, national security, and military preparedness; and

WHEREAS, there is a critical need for coastal infrastructure repair and maintenance in Alaska, according to the Report Card for Alaska's Infrastructure 2021 by the Alaska Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers, awarded Alaska a grade of "D+" to its ports and harbors; and

WHEREAS, the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), signed November 2021, authorizes \$1.2 trillion dollars of much-needed federal infrastructure investment, including over \$17 billion in funding for ports and maritime infrastructure over five years; and other financing such as the Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) loan program may be available but requires a dedicated fund source; and

WHEREAS, in August 2023, U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg visited several communities across Alaska to recognize recent investments and understand Alaska's unique geography, environment, and logistical challenges, speaking on multiple occasions to Alaska's reliance on maritime infrastructure and scale of investment needed; and

WHEREAS, Alaska communities have limited capacity to finance capital improvements, even for facilities with a tariff structure to fund its operations; 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 2024 Legislative Session for a bond package to appear on the November 5, 2024, ballot; and;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League supports The Legislature and Administration funding critical coastal infrastructure throughout the state with general obligation bonds and other or braided state and federal funding, including BIL grant funding, TIFIA financing, and other capital sources that leverage local match funding and revenue streams.

Adopted by the majority of AML members at the Annual Business Meeting, December 8, 2023.