**MEMBERSHIP RESOLUTION FY24-03**

**A RESOLUTION BY THE SOUTHWEST ALASKA MUNICIPAL CONFERENCE MEMBERSHIP SUPPORTING THE FUNDING OF THE ALASKA MARINE HIGHWAY SYSTEM OPERATING BUDGET AT SUSTAINABLE LEVELS AND THE RE-CAPITILIZATION OF THE FLEET USING IIJA FUNDING**

**WHEREAS,** the Alaska Marine Highway System (AMHS) has been providing essential transportation to Alaska’s coastal communities since 1963; and

**WHEREAS,** the AMHS is vital for the economic health of coastal Alaskan communities and has already sustained significant funding reductions that drastically reduced service throughout the system acerbating long standing operational challenges; and

**WHEREAS**, most of the fleet is well past its useful life and must be retired and replaced for the AMHS to fulfil its mission, and there are directed funds for ferry replacement in the IIJA that could replace two to three vessels in the next five years; and

**WHEREAS, in 2021** the Legislature and Governor approved the creation of the Alaska Marine Highway Operating Board (AMHOB) to change the way the AMHS is structured and managed to continue to provide critical services to thousands of coastal Alaskans; and

**WHEREAS,** without the re-capitalization of the existing fleet and operational stability across the boardthere will be significant damage to coastal communities, governments, schools, and businesses that have few if any transportation alternatives available to them.

**NOW BE IT RESOLVED** that the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference Membership supports sustainable operational, maintenance and vessel replacement funding for the AMHS for FY24 and beyond as the AMHOB, ADOT, the Legislature and the AMHS management team design strategic long and short term plans to restructure the AMHS for the next 35 years.

**Adopted 20-0 March 8th 2024**

**COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, President of the United States; the Honorable Kamala D. Harris, Vice President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; Alaska Governor Mike Dunleavy; every member of the Alaska State Legislature ; and the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Dan Sullivan, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Mary Peltola, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.