**Resolution No. 2024-01**

**Resolution Opposing Executive Order No. 131 Regarding the Reorganization of the Alaska Marine Highway Operations Board**

**WHEREAS,** the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference (SWAMC) represents the collective interests and wellbeing of the communities within the Southwest region of Alaska, recognizing the vital importance of the Alaska Marine Highway System as an essential service for transportation, commerce, and connectivity for remote and island communities;

**WHEREAS,** Governor Mike Dunleavy issued Executive Order No. 131 on January 15, 2024, which proposes a reorganization of the Alaska Marine Highway Operations Board, effectively transferring the board appointment authority from the Alaska Legislature to the Governor, thereby centralizing decision-making authority and potentially diminishing regional representation and stakeholder engagement;

**WHEREAS,** the Alaska Marine Highway Operations Board plays a crucial role in overseeing the operations, strategic planning, and policy formulation for the Alaska Marine Highway System, ensuring that the system meets the diverse needs of Alaskan communities, businesses, and the traveling public;

**WHEREAS,** the proposal initiated by Executive Order No. 131 to alter the composition and appointment process of the Alaska Marine Highway Operations Board may lead to decisions that do not fully consider the impacts on local communities, potentially jeopardizing the sustainability and effectiveness of marine highway operations;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference (SWAMC) hereby opposes Executive Order No. 131 and requests that the Alaska Legislature convene in a joint session to separately and specifically address and vote down Governor Dunleavy's Executive Order No. 131 related to the reorganization of the Alaska Marine Highway Operations Board.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that SWAMC urges the Alaska Legislature to maintain a system of checks and balances that ensures regional and stakeholder representation in the governance of the Alaska Marine Highway System, promoting transparency, accountability, and inclusiveness in decision-making processes.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that a copy of this resolution be sent to members of the Alaska Legislature, the Governor of Alaska, and other relevant stakeholders, to express the collective concern of Southwest Alaska communities regarding the proposed reorganization of the Alaska Marine Highway Operations Board and to advocate for legislative action to uphold the principles of democratic governance and regional representation.

Adopted 12-1 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.