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February 12, 2018

Senate Resources Committee  
Senator Cathy Giessel  
Alaska State Capitol, Room 427  
Juneau, Alaska 99811

RE: SB 92 – An Act relating to abandoned and derelict vessels; relating to the registration of vessels; relating to certificates of title for vessels; relating to the duties of the Department of Administration; relating to the duties of the Department of Natural Resources; establishing the derelict vessel prevention program; establishing the derelict vessel prevention program fund; and providing for an effective date.

Dear Committee Members,

The Alaska Municipal League supports SB 92. Municipal harbor masters and Mayors have dealt with the issue of derelict vessels for many years. The current laws in statute are outdated and make it very costly for a municipality to clear a boat which has been abandoned and has become an eyesore and a danger to those in the community.

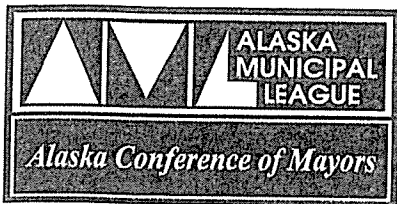
As most of Alaska's municipalities are located on either the ocean, an inlet, a river or a lake, this bill is important to all municipalities. Thus, the resolution supporting this bill has been an important part of our legislative priorities for many years.

Our current laws do an excellent job of protecting vessel owners that moor their boats in municipal harbors. However, those same laws also protect those who have abandoned their boats and/or who have no intention of being responsible for that vessel. The process currently in place has become very slow and ineffective for municipalities.

The Alaska Municipal League would hope that this committee could finally see clear to get this bill out of committee.

Sincerely,

Kathie Wasserman  
Executive Director



## ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE

### RESOLUTION #2018-08

#### A RESOLUTION OF THE ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE IN SUPPORT OF SB 92; AN ACT RELATING TO ABANDONED AND DERELICT VESSELS

**WHEREAS**, hundreds of derelict vessels currently litter Alaska's coastline and harbors and these numbers will increase every year unless action is taken to address aging fleets and changing commercial fisheries; and

**WHEREAS**, in the past two years alone, there have been numerous derelict vessel situations that have cost the state, municipalities, and the federal government, considerable expense, including two ex-Navy tugs in Adak, abandoned barges in Steamboat Slough near Bethel, and the tug Challenger that sunk off Juneau; and

**WHEREAS**, the Alaska Municipal League recognizes the widespread costs and then environmental and navigational risks for both municipalities and the state, associated with derelict vessels; and

**WHEREAS**, neighboring states have dramatically strengthened their derelict vessel prevention laws in the past five years to better prevent, track and manage derelict vessels, including raising fees to support state management of derelict vessels and requiring vessel insurance; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1990, the Alaska Legislature passed a resolution acknowledging the need to better understand and address the existing and growing problem of derelict vessels around the state; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of Alaska has outdated statutes regarding derelict vessels, which lack the ability to track vessel owners, agency enforcement authority, statewide coordination of response, funding and vessel insurance requirements; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2013, an ad-hoc Derelict Vessel Task Force was put into place and included representatives from state and federal agencies, municipal representatives, regional tribal representatives, federal and state legislative offices and private industry; and


**WHEREAS**, over nine full-day meetings, the task force developed thoughtful, robust and meaningful proposed changes that will help all stakeholders around the state, including harbor facilities, better address and prevent derelict vessels; and

**WHEREAS**, this will help our members protect harbor infrastructure, keep valuable moorage space available in our harbors and prevent unsustainable, economic, environmental and navigational hazards; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed changes will improve communication and coordination between Alaska's harbors and state and federal agencies, directly leading to decreased cost associated with managing derelict vessels.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska Municipal League fully supports the passage of SB 92 by the State Legislature.

**PASSED AND APPROVED** by the Alaska Municipal League on this 17<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2017.

Signed:   
Pat Branson, President, Alaska Municipal League

Attest:   
Kathie Wasserman, Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League