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Alaska Travel Industry Association Board of Directors
A Resolution in Support of Alaska Railroad Corporation Dock Improvements

WHEREAS the Alaska Travel Industry Association's mission is to promote Alaska as a top visitor destination, communicate and promote the tourism industry as one of the state's major economic forces, and is the respected voice of the industry for the growth of the industry while remaining stewards of Alaska's resources, recognition of cultures, and Alaska's unique quality of life;

WHEREAS annual visitation to Alaska is 3 million, creating 48,000 jobs, and generating \$5.6 billion in economic impact, and cruise visitors comprise 65% of summer visitors with more than one-quarter crossing the Gulf of Alaska and traveling throughout the entire State;

WHEREAS the Seward dock is a vital multimodal transportation hub, connecting rail, marine, and road systems, and serving as a key point of entry for visitors into Alaska; and

WHEREAS the dock infrastructure in Seward dates to the 1960's and is in need of significant improvements to ensure safety, efficiency, and the continued ability to accommodate cruise ship operations and other maritime commerce; and

WHEREAS investing \$135 million in dock improvements will enhance the capacity and reliability of the Alaska Railroad dock, thereby supporting economic growth, increasing transportation efficiency, and ensuring continued access for industries reliant on freight and passenger movement; and

WHEREAS a modernized and upgraded dock will strengthen Alaska's tourism sector by improving the experience for cruise passengers, supporting local businesses, and encouraging increased visitation to Seward and the entire state; and

WHEREAS securing authorization from the Alaska State Legislature to issue up to \$135 million in revenue bonds for these improvements in the Spring of 2025 is essential to proceed with a timeline of construction to be completed by Spring of 2026; and

WHEREAS House Bill 65 would provide authorization to the Alaska Railroad Corporation to issue revenue bonds to finance the replacement of the Alaska Railroad Corporation's passenger dock and related terminal facility in Seward, Alaska; and provide for an effective date; and

WHEREAS failure to invest in necessary dock improvements could lead to deteriorating infrastructure, increased operational costs, and lost economic opportunities for the state of Alaska;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we strongly support efforts to secure financing for necessary improvements to the Seward dock to ensure the continued reliability, efficiency, and economic contribution of the Alaska Railroad Corporation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ATIA urges state and federal officials, relevant agencies, and stakeholders to prioritize pursuit of bonding authorization so improvements can be made for the benefit of Alaska's economy, transportation network, and communities

ADOPTED AND DATED this 4th day of February, 2025 at Juneau, Alaska.



Jillian Simpson
ATIA President & CEO



Josh Howes, Premier Alaska Tours
ATIA Board Chair