



**ALASKA ASSOCIATION OF HARBORMASTERS
AND PORT ADMINISTRATORS**

Kim Elliot, Executive Secretary

7 Maksoutoff Street

Sitka, AK 99835

Phone: (907) 747-7677

aahpa@gci.net

February 14, 2011

The Honorable Peggy Wilson
State Capitol Room 408
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Wilson:

The Alaska Association of Harbormasters and Port Administrators (AAHPA) is a statewide professional organization comprised of senior managers from 31 municipal harbor systems. Our members operate and maintain the majority of the harbors in the State of Alaska.

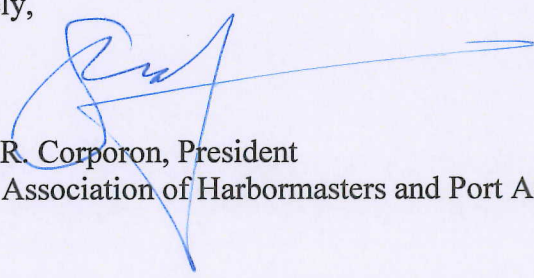
The AAHPA strongly supports House Bill No. 30, which among other things provides a funding source for the State's Municipal Harbor Matching Grant Program (AS 29.60.800). This grant program was developed with substantial input and support from the AAHPA in 2006; however, it has received funding in only three of the State budgets enacted since then.

The primary target of this grant program is the small boat harbors constructed by the State of Alaska in the 1960s and 1970s, which have been transferred to local municipalities during the past several years. Most of these facilities were in less than stellar condition at the time ownership was transferred and are in need of major repairs or replacement.

These harbors play a critical economic role by enabling trade, transportation, commercial fisheries, tourism, and recreational opportunities across the State. Providing a stable funding source for the Municipal Harbor Matching Grant Program, as HB 30 will do, is a significant step in ensuring that we are able to adequately repair and maintain these valuable facilities throughout the State of Alaska.

Please contact me at (907) 228-6049 if you have any questions regarding AAHPA's support of HB 30.

Sincerely,


Steven R. Corporon, President
Alaska Association of Harbormasters and Port Administrators