

Dear Senator Giessel and Senator Micciche,

As the President of the Alaska Association of Harbormasters and Port Administrators (AAHPA), our organization is fully in support of increased legislation to mitigate the increasing challenges of meeting derelict and potentially derelict vessels throughout Alaska. Other NW Pacific States have taken proactive stances to protect their waters and to reduce financial risk to states and municipalities. The unintended consequences of these stricter statutes have resulted in Alaska being viewed as a soft target. It is more than plausible that we will see increasing number of WWII aged vessels being brought to Alaska because of our lax enforcement rules.

AAHPA is supportive of increased user fees to help defray the cost to remediate abandoned and derelict vessels as well as initiatives to require vessels to be insured. In the case of Juneau, which I am very familiar with, it was once acceptable for boat owners to dispose of their vessels along Thane Road on CBJ property. It was also commonplace to scuttle unwanted vessel in any deep water. In 2015, the vessel CHALLENGER was anchored in Gastineau Channel before sinking – because the Coast Guard could not determine the Responsible Party, the cost to the Coast Guard was in excess of \$1.7M and to my knowledge the ownership of the vessel remains uncertain.

What was once commonplace is now unacceptable and we need more sophisticated statutes to deal with abandoned and derelict vessels. The Alaska Association of Harbormasters & Port Administrators thank you for your consideration in advancing SB 92.

Sincerely,

Carl Uchytel, P.E.

President, AAHPA

<http://alaskaharbors.org/>

