

**CITY OF SEWARD, ALASKA
RESOLUTION 2022-013**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEWARD,
ALASKA, SUPPORTING THE ALASKA RAILROAD CORPORATION'S
EFFORTS TO SECURE FUNDING FOR THE SEWARD PASSENGER
DOCK PROJECT**

WHEREAS, the Alaska Railroad Corporation (ARRC) owns and operates the passenger dock and passenger terminal in Seward; and

WHEREAS, both facilities were constructed in 1966 and serves cruise ships and other passenger and freight vessels; and

WHEREAS, the existing passenger dock is nearing the end of its useful life; and

WHEREAS, ARRC has determined dock maintenance is prohibitive and in order to continue serving cruise ships and other vessels in a safe manner, it is necessary to replace the dock; and

WHEREAS, ARRC states that replacement of the existing passenger dock and existing passenger terminal with a new dock and terminal facilities capable of serving cruise ships, including new, larger ships, and other vessels is critical to the ongoing viability of passenger operations at ARRC's Seward Port; and

WHEREAS, replacement of the passenger dock and passenger terminal is crucial to the City of Seward because closure of the facility would eliminate cruise ship tourism and other related economic opportunities; and

WHEREAS, ARRC desires to construct, maintain, and operate a new passenger terminal facility and to finance all or a portion of the \$60,000,000 project cost through the issuance of bonds; and

WHEREAS, ARRC is required to obtain authorization from the Alaska Legislature to issue the bonds in connection with the project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEWARD, ALASKA that:

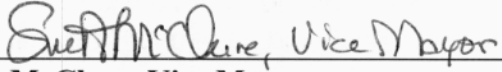
Section 1. The supports ARRC's efforts to secure funding for the Seward Passenger Dock Project.

Section 2. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

**CITY OF SEWARD, ALASKA
RESOLUTION 2022-013**

PASSED AND APPROVED by the City Council of the City of Seward, Alaska, this 24th day of January, 2022.

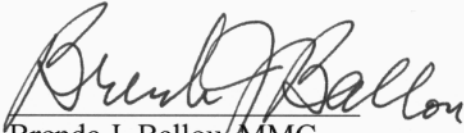
THE CITY OF SEWARD, ALASKA



Sue McClure, Vice Mayor

AYES: DeMoss, Calhoon, Osenga, McClure
NOES: None
ABSENT: Wells, Casagrande
ABSTAIN: Terry

ATTEST:



Brenda J. Ballou, MMC
City Clerk

(City Seal)





*The Alaska SeaLife Center generates and shares scientific knowledge
to promote understanding and stewardship of Alaska's marine ecosystems.*

www.alaskasealife.org

February 22, 2022

The Alaska State Legislature
Capitol Building
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Honorable Members of the Alaska State Legislature:

I am writing you today to encourage your support of the Alaska Railroad's efforts to receive legislative authority to bond for \$60 million for the replacement of the passenger cruise dock in Seward.

The current dock was built in 1966 and needs to be replaced in order to continue to serve the 200,000 cruise ship passengers that cross over it every year during their visits to Alaska. Many of those passengers make up the more than 160,000 guests that pass through the doors of the Alaska SeaLife Center. These passengers support the Alaska SeaLife Center, the statewide tourism industry, and the thousands of Alaskans who work in this industry doing everything from drive buses, work in coffee shops, run small and large hotels, and provide visitor adventures. Additionally, the bed taxes, head taxes, sales taxes, and other fees that those visitors pay support necessary services for the residents of Seward and all of Alaska.

The Alaska SeaLife Center has a critical relationship with the Alaska Railroad and the cruise ship industry. The presence and quality of their infrastructure impacts the success of our summer visitor season as well as the local Seward economy. A new facility is vital to maintain passengers arriving in Seward and in Alaska.

Key to this proposal is that the bonding will not be done by the State of Alaska and the people of Alaska will not be paying the bill. The Alaska Railroad will use its bonding authority to raise the funds and the fees for the use of the dock will pay the bill.

Thank you for your consideration and support of this effort,

Sincerely,

Tara L. Riemer, Ph.D.
President and CEO



February 16, 2022

The Alaska State Legislature
Capitol Building
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Alaska Legislature

We encourage your support of the Alaska Railroad's efforts to receive legislative authority to bond for \$60 million for the replacement of the passenger cruise dock in Seward. The passenger dock is an important part of the infrastructure and the economy not just in Seward but all along the Railbelt.

The current dock was built in 1966 and must be replaced in order to continue to serve the 200,000 passengers that cross over it every year during their visits to Alaska. The Seward dock provides opportunity for visitors to support the local Seward and Kenai Peninsula economy and is an important access point for visitor travel from Seward north to Anchorage, the Matsu Valley, Denali National Park and Fairbanks. Additionally, the bed taxes, head taxes, sales taxes, and other fees that those visitors pay support necessary services for the residents of Alaska.

Key to this proposal is that the bonding will not be done by the State of Alaska and the people of Alaska will not be paying the bill. The Alaska Railroad will use its bonding authority to raise the funds and the fees for the use of the dock will pay the bill.

Thank you for your support of this effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Steve Judd".

Steve Judd
President
Alaska Tour & Travel



Alaska Wildland Adventures

February 16, 2022

The Alaska State Legislature
Capitol Building
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Alaska Legislature

We encourage your support of the Alaska Railroad's efforts to receive legislative authority to bond for \$60 million for the replacement of the passenger cruise dock in Seward. The passenger dock is an important part of the infrastructure and the economy not just in Seward but all along the Railbelt.

The current dock was built in 1966 and must be replaced in order to continue to serve the 200,000 passengers that cross over it every year during their visits to Alaska. Those visitors support my company and the jobs of thousands of other Alaskans who do everything from drive buses, work in coffee shops, run small and large hotels, provide visitor adventures, and just about anything else you can imagine doing in Alaska in the summer. Additionally, the bed taxes, head taxes, sales taxes, and other fees that those visitors pay support necessary services for the residents of Alaska.

Key to this proposal is that the bonding will not be done by the State of Alaska and the people of Alaska will not be paying the bill. The Alaska Railroad will use it's bonding authority to raise the funds and the fees for the use of the dock will pay the bill.

Thank you for your support of this effort.

Respectfully,

Kirk Hoessle, President
Alaska Wildland Adventures



ALL ALASKA TOURS

February 16, 2022

The Alaska State Legislature
Capitol Building
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Alaska Legislature

We encourage your support of the Alaska Railroad's efforts to receive legislative authority to bond for \$60 million for the replacement of the passenger cruise dock in Seward. The passenger dock is an important part of the infrastructure and the economy not just in Seward but all along the Railbelt.

The current dock was built in 1966 and must be replaced to continue to serve the 200,000 passengers that cross over it every year during their visits to Alaska. Those visitors support my company and the jobs of thousands of other Alaskans who do everything from drive buses, work in coffee shops, run small and large hotels, provide visitor adventures, and just about anything else you can imagine doing in Alaska in the summer. Additionally, the bed taxes, head taxes, sales taxes, and other fees that those visitors pay support necessary services for the residents of Alaska.

Key to this proposal is that the bonding will not be done by the State of Alaska and the people of Alaska will not be paying the bill. The Alaska Railroad will use its bonding authority to raise the funds and the fees for the use of the dock will pay the bill.

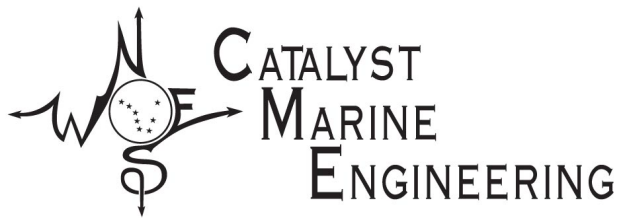
All Alaska Tours has been in the business of creating Alaska travel packages and marketing its services to a broad range of customers worldwide since 1991. We have successfully worked with the Alaska Railroad for over 30 years and look forward to continuing to build our business working together to grow Alaska's tourism economy.

Thank you for your support of this effort.

Sincerely,



Al Koch
President/Owner
All Alaska Tours, Inc.



1106 Port ave.
PO Box 825
Seward, AK 99664

Phone: 1-907-224-2500
www.catalyst-marine.com

February 22, 2022

The Alaska State Legislature
Capitol Building
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Alaska Legislature,

Catalyst Marine encourages your support of the Alaska Railroad's efforts to receive legislative authority to bond for \$60 million for the replacement of the passenger cruise dock in Seward. The passenger dock is an important part of the infrastructure and the economy not just in Seward but all along the Railbelt. In Seward alone the passenger dock supports hundreds of jobs year-round, facilitating Tourism, the oil industry, commercial fisheries, and research vessels. Without a serviceable dock many of these industries would suffer tremendously.

Catalyst Marine cannot overemphasize the importance of this critical piece of infrastructure to the Seward community, southcentral region, and the State of Alaska! This is not just a seasonal facility used by the Cruise Industry that sits vacant the rest of the year. Catalyst, and other vendors, rely on this dock for scheduled maintenance and emergency repairs on many of the different vessels that support Alaska's industry. All companies, including ours, that support the development of Alaskan projects in Southcentral, the Interior, Western Alaska, and North Slope depend on this dock and its ability to safely provide a working platform for vessel repair in the times passenger ships are not using it. Since Seward is a year-round ice-free port, vessels arrive YEAR-ROUND and count on this dock to keep their operation up safely and efficiently running to supporting our entire state.

The current dock was built in 1966, has outlived its intended service life, and must be replaced to continue to serve the 200,000 passengers that cross over it every year during their visits to Alaska. The visitor support in our community and the jobs of thousands of other Alaskans who do everything from drive buses, work in coffee shops, run small and large hotels, provide visitor adventures, and just about anything else you can imagine doing in Alaska in the summer. Additionally, the bed taxes, head taxes, sales taxes, and other fees that those visitors pay support necessary services for the residents of Alaska.

Key to this proposal is that the bonding **will not** be done by the State of Alaska and **the people of Alaska will not be paying the bill**. The Alaska Railroad will use its bonding authority to raise the funds and the fees for the use of the dock will pay the bill.

If there are any questions regarding our support or the importance of this project, I would gladly answer them, contact me at any time.

Respectfully,

Joseph C. Tougas
President/Owner

joe@catalyst-marine.com

Mobile: 907-362-1900

February 16, 2022

The Alaska State Legislature
Capitol Building
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Alaska State Legislature:

On behalf of Explore Fairbanks, I am writing to encourage your support of the Alaska Railroad's efforts to receive legislative authority to bond for \$60 million for the replacement of the passenger cruise dock in Seward. The passenger dock is an important part of the infrastructure and the economy not just in Seward but all along the Railbelt, to include Interior Alaska.

The current dock was built in 1966 and must be replaced in order to continue to serve the 200,000 passengers that cross over it every year during their visits to Alaska. Many of these cruise ship passengers make their way up North to Denali National Park and Fairbanks and are vitally important to our summer visitor industry season. The 2016 Alaska Visitor Statistics Program (AVSP) estimated that approximately 41% of Fairbanks summer visitors make their way here by way of the Cross Gulf of Alaska cruise/land tours. These visitors stay in hotels, eat at restaurants, shop at stores, participate in tours and attractions, and make significant contributions to our local economy.

Key to this proposal is that the bonding will not be done by the State of Alaska and the people of Alaska will not be paying the bill. The Alaska Railroad will use its' bonding authority to raise the funds and the fees for the use of the dock will pay the bill.

Thank you for your support of this important project, and for your service to the State of Alaska.

Sincerely,



Scott J. McCrea
President and CEO



JAG Alaska, Inc.
Seward Cruise Ship Dock Bonding Letter

February 21, 2022

The Alaska State Legislature
Capitol Building
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Alaska Legislature

We encourage your support of the Alaska Railroad's efforts to receive legislative authority to bond for \$60 million for the replacement of the passenger cruise dock in Seward. The passenger dock is an important part of the infrastructure and the economy not just in Seward but all along the Railbelt.

JAG Alaska fully supports this project as we are always looking for additional dock space to support our core customers. We have and will continue to utilize the dock for USCG vessels, AMHS Tustumena & Aurora, USNS/MSV vessels along with a host of longtime commercial customers. It inevitably comes down to even having to turn vessels away when no dock space is available here in Seward.

The current dock was built in 1966 and must be replaced in order to continue to serve the 200,000 passengers that cross over it every year during their visits to Alaska. Those visitors support my company and the jobs of thousands of other Alaskans who do everything from drive buses, work in coffee shops, run small and large hotels, provide visitor adventures, and just about anything else you can imagine doing in Alaska in the summer. Additionally, the bed taxes, head taxes, sales taxes, and other fees that those visitors pay support necessary services for the residents of Alaska.

Key to this proposal is that the bonding will not be done by the State of Alaska and the people of Alaska will not be paying the bill. The Alaska Railroad will use its bonding authority to raise the funds and the fees for the use of the dock will pay the bill.

Thank you for your support of this effort.

Tim Jagielski
Executive Vice President
JAG Alaska, Inc.



February 17, 2022

Alaska State Legislature
Capitol Building
Juneau, AK 99801

To the Alaska State Legislature

Premier Alaska Tours asks for your support of the Alaska Railroad's request to receive legislative authority to bond for \$60 million as they work to replace the passenger cruise dock in Seward.

Alaska needs safe and reliable port facilities in order to maximize any efforts at building economic diversity and stability. The existing passenger dock in Seward was constructed in 1966 and has surpassed the intended lifespan of this facility. A new port in Seward must be built with an eye towards the future of increased passenger traffic, larger cruise ships, and more arrivals throughout the calendar year.

With over 60% of our annual revenues coming directly from the cruise industry, Premier Alaska Tours is dependent on infrastructure that promotes this important segment of our economy. With this bonding proposal, it is important to note that this project will not be paid for by the state of Alaska or our residents, but instead the bonds will be paid by users of the facility and the cruise customers that are served.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at 907-279-0001.

Best regards,

Josh Howes
President

Date: February 17, 2022

The Alaska State Legislature
Capitol Building
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Alaska Legislature:

As a travel and hospitality company with a deep history of delivering iconic Alaska experiences and employing hundreds of Alaskans seasonally, we encourage your support of the Alaska Railroad's efforts to receive legislative authority to bond for \$60 million for the replacement of the passenger cruise dock in Seward. The passenger dock is an important part of the infrastructure and the economy not just in Seward but all along the Railbelt.

The current dock was built in 1966 and must be replaced in order to safely continue serving the 200,000 passengers that cross over it every year during their visit to Alaska. Those visitors support all of Pursuit's Alaskan travel and hospitality experiences, including our Kenai Fjords Tours, Denali Backcountry Adventure tour and our five lodging properties along the Railbelt. Those visitors allow us to employ over 440 staff seasonally and drive significant economic value with local suppliers, partners and vendors, who all help us deliver unforgettable guest experiences in Alaska. Additionally, the bed taxes, head taxes, sales taxes, and other fees that those visitors pay support necessary services for the residents of Alaska.

An important part of this proposal is the assurance that the bonding will not be executed by the State of Alaska to ensure that the people will not be paying the bill. As outlined in the proposal the Alaska Railroad will use its bonding authority to raise the funds and the fees for the use of the dock to pay for this dock replacement.

Thank you for your support of this effort.

Sincerely,



Fernando Salvador

VICE PRESIDENT & GENERAL MANAGER / ALASKA COLLECTION



**BOARD OF
DIRECTORS**

Carole Tallman
President

Geri Nipp
Vice President

Melissa Schutter
Treasurer

Jena Peterse
Secretary

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Liberty Miller
Matt Cope

Robbie Huett
Hillary Bean
Rebekah Ivy
Randy Wells

Lyrissa Hammer

CHAMBER STAFF

Kat Sorensen
Executive Director

January 24, 2022
Alaska State Legislature
120 4th Street
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Subject: Letter of support from the Seward Chamber of Commerce for the Alaska Railroad Corporation's efforts to secure funding for the Seward passenger dock project

Dear Alaska Legislature,

On behalf of the myself, the Seward Chamber of Commerce Executive Director, and our Board of Directors, I would like to express support for the Alaska Railroad Corporation's efforts to secure funding for the Seward passenger dock project through the issuance of bonds.

The existing passenger dock and passenger terminal were constructed in 1966 and have served cruise ships, passenger, and freight vessels over the course of the past 56 years. As the existing facilities the end of their useful life, we recognize the need to replace the existing structures with a new dock and terminal facilities capable of serving the ships that come to Seward.

Our Port is a significant aspect of our year-round economy, and the Alaska Railroad's role in maintaining these facilities is vital our community. The facility upgrades are essential to Seward since any lapse in service at the passenger dock or passenger terminal would jeopardize Seward's economic development and growth.

Thank you for your continued support of this vital infrastructure in Seward.

Sincerely,

Kat Sorensen