



# RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Growing Alaska Through Responsible Resource Development

May 6, 2024

Mr. Wade Morefield  
US Department of Transportation  
Maritime Administration  
1200 New Jersey Ave SE  
Washington DC 20590

RE: City of Unalaska 2024 Port Infrastructure Development Program Grant Application

Dear Mr. Morefield,

On behalf of the Resource Development Council for Alaska, I write to express our support of the City of Unalaska’s grant application for the 2024 Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP). This project is essential to addressing deteriorating conditions of the Dutch Harbor dock and to modernize its facilities, much of which is now over 30 years old.

RDC is a statewide, non-profit trade association founded in 1975. Our membership is comprised of individuals and companies from Alaska’s fishing, tourism, forestry, mining, and oil and gas industries and includes Alaska Native corporations, local communities, organized labor, and industry support firms. Our purpose is to encourage a strong, diversified private sector in Alaska and expand the state’s economic base through the responsible development of our natural resources.

According to the most recent National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration annual report Dutch Harbor, Alaska is the top fishing port in the nation in terms of volume of seafood landed, bringing in 763 million pounds of seafood in 2020. Dutch Harbor is an essential port for Alaska’s fishing industry which produces about 60% of the nation’s commercial fisheries. Alaska’s fisheries are recognized as some of the best managed in the world, providing tens of thousands of seasonal and full-time jobs.

This project will make repairs and modernize the aging port facility at Dutch Harbor preparing the port to meet the needs of RDC’s member companies in the fishing industry, communities in the region, and seafood needs of the nation for the next thirty years. For these reasons, we request the U.S. Department of Transportation support the City of Unalaska’s grant application. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Leila Kimbrell  
Executive Director



TOURISM



FISHERIES



OIL & GAS



MINING



FORESTRY