



RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Growing Alaska Through Responsible Resource Development

May 20, 2024

The Honorable Michael S. Regan
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

RE: Letter of Support for City of Seward EPA-R-OAR-CPP-24-02 Clean Ports Program: Zero-Emission Technology Deployment Competition

Dear Administrator Regan,

On behalf of the Resource Development Council for Alaska, I write to express our support for the Seward Shore Power Project. As the southern terminus of the Alaska Railroad, the Port of Seward serves as an essential connection between the State of Alaska, the local community of Seward, the continental U.S. and the global economy. The port of Seward is a critical connection for the Alaskan cruise industry, the local coast guard, and for goods and resources transport to/from Alaska.

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.

Alaska receives more than 1.5 million tourists via cruise ship per year, making up about 60% of the total summer visitors for the state. Visitors spend nearly \$2.2 billion annually in Alaska, and when added to the income from labor industry-related jobs, visitors create a total economic output of \$4.5 billion to Alaska’s economy. RDC’s state-wide membership includes numerous organizations that rely on a thriving and sustainable tourist industry in Alaska, and in particular the millions of tourists brought in on cruise ships.

Shore power is a technology that allows ships to connect to the local electrical grid while at berth, thereby reducing or eliminating the need for onboard generators to operate while at port. This Shore Power Project will reduce emissions and noise pollution to the near-port community of Seward and improve the environmental and financial sustainability of the port and the operators that it serves.

The integration of shore power aligns with our nations’ goals of promoting renewable energy and combating climate change. Transitioning to cleaner and more sustainable forms of energy will enable the Port of Seward to reduce its carbon footprint and contribute to the global effort to address climate change



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and environmental degradation. The Port of Seward is uniquely positioned to leverage shore power due to its strategic location and access to a significant and growing share of clean, renewable power sources.

In addition to the community and environmental benefits, this Shore Power Project is also expected to provide significant economic benefits by reducing fuel consumption operating costs for all vessels that call at the Seward Passenger dock. This includes cruise ships, coast guard, and freight vessels. By providing predictable and cost-effective power for vessels, the project will enhance the environment and financial sustainability of the vessels and lines that call to the port.

The Shore Power project will also synergize with the planned reconstruction of the Seward Passenger Dock and Terminal, ensuring that Port Seward continues to serve the local community and the State of Alaska; remaining a strategic connection for industry, the coastguard, and the community for the next 100 years.

For these reasons, we request that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency support the City of Seward Shore Power Project grant application. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Leila Kimbrell
Executive Director



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