



# Douglas Indian Association Tribal Government

1021 Glacier Ave Juneau, Alaska 99801-1529  
Phone: (907) 364-2916 Fax: (907) 364-2917



April 22, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation  
Office of the Secretary of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Maritime Administrator Ann Phillips  
U.S. DOT Maritime Administration  
West Building  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary, Buttigieg & Administrator Phillips,

The Douglas Indian Association (DIA) is a federally recognized tribe with about 700 Tribal members, many of who live within the Tribe's traditional and historic territory. DIA's Base Roll Tribal members originate from the T'aaku Kwáan and A'akw Kwáan clans which have inhabited the Anax Yaa Andagan Yé (Douglas) and Dzantik'i Héeni (Juneau) region since time immemorial. Our traditional and historical territory encompasses all of the City and Borough of Juneau, as well as some areas to the east and north on Admiralty Island and the Chilkat Peninsula, to the south encompassing Endicott Arm, and to the east into Canada in the areas of the Taku River and Atlin, B.C.

Through the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) of 1971, the State of Alaska conveyed lands to Native corporations in Southeast Alaska, but no land was conveyed to the Tribe in the Douglas or Juneau area. Currently the DIA membership has grown to over 700 tribal members. Most of the members live within the city and Borough of Juneau (CBJ), which has an overall population average of about 32,000. There are approximately 6,000 Alaska Natives living in the City and Borough of Juneau and Douglas, many of whom are eligible to apply for membership in DIA.

DIA strongly and unconditionally supports the CBJ Docks & Harbors efforts to construct a drive down float at Aurora Harbor, which is less than 2000 feet from our Tribal Office in Juneau. As Tlingit people of SE Alaska for over 10,000 years, we are maritime nation which relies on access to the water for transportation, subsistence, and culture. The Tlingit people have depended on salmon from time immemorial. We have a numerous number of Tribal members who commercially fish that would benefit immensely with this infrastructure improvement to the CBJ Harbor. The project would create efficiencies and improved safety for commercial fishermen to load stores, change out gear and for routine maintenance on their vessels. The float could potentially be used for direct sales of fish to the public which would be a direct economic benefit.

This proposed drive down float could also facilitate more efficient movement of freight and goods from the regional hub of Juneau to our Tribal members throughout SE Alaska and British Columbia. Currently there are no downtown Juneau facilities that support regional marine transportation. This project would help in commercial loading of freight, including fish products.

CBJ Docks & Harbors routinely works with DIA to ensure Tribal needs are met. DIA stand firmly in support of this project and looks forward to this project serving the needs of Juneau, including the Alaskan Native community.

Sincerely,

Clarence A. Laiti

Tribal President



3025 Clinton Drive  
Juneau, AK 99801  
(907) 790-4990

April 23, 2024

Office of Port Infrastructure Development  
United States Department of Transportation - Maritime Administration  
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Re: CBJ Docks & Harbors Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP) Grant Application

To whom it may concern,

It is a pleasure to submit a letter in support of the Port Infrastructure Development Program application by the Docks & Harbors office of the City and Borough of Juneau. Docks & Harbors has provided services that enhance the city of Juneau and the surrounding region for many years, and it is our belief that an award for this grant application will continue that trend.

As a Native Alaskan corporation, Goldbelt's foremost focus is supporting our local communities. The proposed project, a "drive-down" float in Juneau's Aurora Harbor, would greatly improve opportunities for local fishermen. Fishing is integral to the livelihoods of many of our native shareholders, and we believe that all improvements to make the industry more accessible are worth investing in.

Goldbelt and Docks & Harbors have worked together on many projects over the years. Our organizations believe in creating meaningful adjustments that will improve the safety and efficiency of port-related infrastructure for Alaskans. Goldbelt strongly supports the project as detailed in the application and urge you to move forward with an award for this endeavor.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sahlender', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Steven Sahlender  
VP of Operations – Alaska Group



JUNEAU, ALASKA

April 24, 2024

Carl Uchytel, P.E.  
Port Director  
155 S. Seward Street  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Subject: Aurora Harbor drive down dock proposal

Carl,

We feel that the proposed drive down dock in Aurora harbor would be a great infrastructure addition for both our local fleet and out of town fishermen that deliver to our plant. Being able to transfer fishing gear, load groceries and other supplies at another access point would lessen the bottleneck we experience at times at the IVF float during the busy summer months with the lack of loading zone space.

A drive down float would also make it much easier for any of the local vendors including engine service, hydraulic repair, electrical repair and refrigeration service to access the boats by being able to drive down and park beside the boat.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hank Baumgart", is located below the "Regards," text.

Hank Baumgart, President

550 South Franklin Street  
Juneau, AK 99801  
(907) 463-4617

# **UNITED SOUTHEAST ALASKA GILLNETTERS**

**Box 2196, Petersburg AK 99833 \* (253) 279-0707 \* [usag.alaska@gmail.com](mailto:usag.alaska@gmail.com) \* [akgillnet.org](http://akgillnet.org)**

USAG'S MAIN PURPOSE IS TO PROTECT, SERVE AND ENHANCE SOUTHEAST ALASKA'S COMMERCIAL GILLNET FISHERY

April 22, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation

Rear Admiral, Ann C. Phillips, U.S. Navy (Ret.)  
Administrator

U.S. Department of Transportation  
Office of the Secretary of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Pete and Ann,

United Southeast Alaska Gillnetters is a non-profit entity that works to preserve, protect, and enhance the Southeast Alaska drift gillnet fishery. Our membership consists of fishermen and businesses from the region.

Today we are writing to support the drive down float at Aurora Harbor proposed by City and Borough of Juneau Docks and Harbors, and their application for a Port Infrastructure Development grant. Drive down floats are vital infrastructure additions to any harbor, especially one as busy as Juneau's. Commercial fisherman can easier transfer gear, heavy parts, supplies, and product. Other harbor users, including public safety, will also benefit, as it will allow for a more timely and safe transfer of whatever needs moved from boat to vehicle, or vice-versa.

Drive down floats are fairly new to the area, but where they have been installed, they see extremely high use. Juneau has a large harbor complex, is home to the most fishermen from our fisheries fleet, is home to many sport charter operations, whale watching business, and in summer see an extraordinary amount of visitation of yacht tourism. A well-managed drive down float would be a good addition to the CBJ Docks and Harbors complex, and would be well used and serviceable for decades.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Max Worhatch', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Max Worhatch, Executive Director, USAG



April 22, 2024

Carl Uchytíl

Port Director CBJ Docks and Harbors

City & Borough of Juneau - Docks & Harbors

155 S. Seward Street

Juneau, AK 99801

**Re: Aurora Harbor**

Dear Mr. Uchytíl

The Southeast Alaska Seiners Association (SEAS) is in favor of the City of Juneau pursuing the PIDP grant to construct a drive down float at Aurora Harbor. SEAS is a private non-profit association representing the majority of the salmon purse seine fishermen in Southeast Alaska.

A drive down dock at Aurora Harbor would not only benefit purse seine fishermen, but all other commercial fishermen in northern Southeast Alaska. It would also relieve the congestion at the downtown dock in Juneau.

If there is anything more that SEAS can do to get this project underway do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for your time on this matter.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,

Phil Doherty  
Executive Director – SEAS  
PO Box 6238  
Ketchikan, AK 99901



Juneau, AK 99801

Phone (907) 586-4360

[www.seconference.org](http://www.seconference.org)

Email [info@seconference.org](mailto:info@seconference.org)

SOUTHEAST ALASKA REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

April 23, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg, Secretary  
Federal Highway Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE.  
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Letter of Support for the City and Borough of Juneau's Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP) Grant Application for construction of a drive-down float at Juneau's Aurora Harbor.

To the Honorable Pete Buttigieg,

Southeast Conference (SEC) supports the City and Borough of Juneau's Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP) Grant Application for construction of a drive-down float at Juneau's Aurora Harbor. SEC (est. 1958) provides regional community and economic development services that support local communities. We are the region's federally designated Economic Development District by the U.S. Economic Development Administration, and an Alaska Regional Development Organization. We have more than 185 member organizations & individuals, representing most municipalities, federally-recognized Tribes, businesses, government agencies, organizations, and many individuals located or doing business in Southeast Alaska.

The drive-down float will improve port infrastructure to support commercial fishing and related businesses by providing safe and efficient access for commercial fishermen to load stores, change our gear and for routine maintenance on their vessels. Additionally, the proposed drive down float could also facilitate more efficient movement of freight and goods from the regional hub of Juneau to Alaska Natives throughout Southeast Alaska. This project would help in commercial loading of freight, including fish products.

The Southeast Conference's 2025 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) recognizes both the importance and the need to expand the capacity of the seafood and maritime sectors in our region. The Marine Vessel Haul Out in Juneau aligns with Seafood objective "Work to Further Promote a Year-round Seafood Economy in the Region" and Maritime Industrial Support objective #3 "Expand Regional Marine Industrial Support Capacity". The project is designed to construct new infrastructure to support essential industries and opportunities for entrepreneurs, which are key to maintaining a strong regional economy and attracting new residents to our area.

Southeast Conference requests the fullest support possible be given to Juneau's application. This marine transportation investment in a rural area will truly result in significant economic growth. Thank you for your support of transportation infrastructure in Alaska and its rural communities.

Sincerely,

J. Robert Venables  
Executive Director





4/15/2024

Re: Letter of Recommendation – Aurora Harbor Drive Down Float Project

Dear Port Infrastructure Development Program Grant Administrators,

I am writing to you on behalf of Barnacle Foods, a respected leader in the Alaska mariculture industry. We are pleased to express our support for the City and Borough of Juneau, Docks and Harbors's Aurora Harbor Drive Down Float Project application for the Port Infrastructure Development Program Grant.

Barnacle Foods is a Juneau, Alaska-based food manufacturer that processes Alaskan grown kelp into shelf-stable products. We operate our own facility in Juneau and our products are sold throughout the U.S. Unfortunately our facility is not waterfront, so we must transport all the kelp to our location and for this we rely on the Docks and Harbors facilities.

We use many of the facilities of the City and Borough of Juneau, Docks and Harbors including the drive down float in Auke Bay and the current offload cranes and pier that is near the proposed Aurora Drive Down Float. The current float is a resource in demand and is frequently too busy to be used. A new float will allow us to more efficiently and flexibly receive deliveries. As we continue to grow we need to use these facilities more and more. An additional float will reduce this obstacle and allow us to focus more on the production and distribution of our products.

We fully support the City and Borough of Juneau, Docks and Harbors application for the Port Infrastructure Development Program Grant and are committed to providing any assistance necessary to facilitate the success of their project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Max Stanley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Max Stanley