SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE HYDER BOARD OF TRADE INC. EFFORTS TO SECURE STATE, FEDERAL, AND OTHER PROJECT ASSISTANCE IN DEVELOPMENT OF MARINE AND VISITOR FACILITIES AS PART OF THE PORTLAND CANAL/MISTY FJORDS EASTERN GATEWAY

Resolution 07-09

WHEREAS, the modern Cassiar Highway 37 of today is rapidly changing the travel patterns of Alaska bound independent visitor traffic away from long established Southeast Alaska marine traffic patterns visitors have traditionally followed into Alaska’s massive region of the Tongass National Forest; and

WHEREAS, the decline of independent visitor traffic in Southeast Alaska is primarily linked to the business and service sectors associated with RV travel, independent motor coach tours, locally based eco-tours, campgrounds, motels, hotels, and the passenger/vehicle traffic volume levels of the Alaska Marine Highway System; and

WHEREAS, the small U.S./Canada boundary community of Hyder, Alaska is surrounded and strategically positioned at the headwaters of the ninety mile long Portland Canal, in a manner whereby recovery from the current loss of traffic to the Cassiar Highway by development of marine facilities and visitor services at Hyder; and

WHEREAS, development of marine facilities at Hyder will connect the population center at Ketchikan and Hyder, offering visitors an unequaled experience of cruising a narrow, uninhabited wilderness fjord, carved between high mountain peaks and glaciers, while following the international boundary between Canada, the United States, the Misty Fjord National Monument and Wilderness Preserve, and Northwest British Columbia wilderness for eco-cruise tours, kayaks, private boaters, and public and private ferries; and

WHEREAS, the proposed facilities will attract creative initiatives, both public and private, in addressing a new visitor opportunity; and

WHEREAS, the facilities would be operated and maintained by the not-for-profit Hyder Board of Trade Inc. in a manner of being in concert with traffic flows between the Cassiar Highway 37, Ketchikan, Prince Rupert, and the balance of Southeast Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the best estimates of the potential additional yearly traffic volumes via the currently non-accessible federal public lands and waters is in the order of 20,000 new visitors to Southeast Alaska, the Tongass National Forest and Alaska’s Misty Fjords and Wilderness Areas to be marketed as Southeast Alaska’s “Glacier and Fjord Route.”
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NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Southeast Conference supports the Hyder Board of Trade efforts to secure shared state and federal funding leading to the entry of new visitors to the region for a new non-impacting experience of the Tongass National Forest lands, waters and glaciers as well as all agencies necessary.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the Southeast Conference urges the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities to maximize all opportunities for cooperation with the Hyder Board of Trade, Inc., the United States Forest Service, the District of Stewart, BC and the private sector.

ADOPTED BY THE SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE MEMBERSHIP ON SEPTEMBER 21, 2006 at Ketchikan, Alaska.

Witnessed by: Attested by:

Carol Rushmore Murray Walsh
President Executive Director

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