



CITY OF SAINT PAUL

ALASKA

August 22, 2023

Re: NOAA Recommendation to Congress to Enact Legislation Forgiving 1987 Coastal Energy Impact Program Loan to City of Saint Paul

Dear Senators Murkowski and Sullivan, and Representative Peltola:

On behalf of the community I serve as Mayor, I am very pleased that the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Office for Coastal Zone Management (OCM) is proceeding to recommend enactment of legislation to forgive Saint Paul's Coastal Energy Impact Program (CEIP) loan.

Saint Paul has pursued relief from this loan, as allowed under the provisions of the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA), since 2000. This recommendation is, therefore, long overdue and will help Saint Paul to focus on the actions it needs to take to diversify and secure its future, at a time when its economy has been devastated by the closure of the Bering Sea crab fisheries.

We humbly request your offices' assistance in implementing NOAA OCM's recommendation pursuant to its July 24, 2023 letter (see attachment 1) and proceeding to enact appropriate legislation. The amount to be forgiven (subject to final NOAA confirmation) is: \$7,939,459.77 (\$5,855,878 in principal and \$2,083,581.77 in interest).

This is not a Saint Paul or Alaska-specific issue. We have met recently with representatives of the City of Pascagoula, Mississippi. Pascagoula is similarly expecting a recommendation of forgiveness from NOAA for a non-performing CEIP loan, and is coordinating its efforts with the Mississippi congressional offices.

I have attached the July 24th letter by NOAA OCM recommending forgiveness as well as earlier correspondence and information. I am also ccing the NOAA Office of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs (OLIA) with whom this issue now resides at the agency for further coordination.

With deep gratitude,

Jacob Mercurief
Mayor, City of Saint Paul, Alaska

cc: Jeffrey L. Payne, Director NOAA Office for Coastal Management
Nicole LeBoeuf, Assistant Administrator, National Ocean Service
John King, NOAA Office for Coastal Zone Management

Makeda Okolo, Director NOAA Office of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs
Melanie Jackson, NOAA Office of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs
Attachments:

1. Letter from NOAA Office for Coastal Management to City of Saint Paul dated July 24, 2023
2. Letter from City of Saint Paul to Secretary Raimondo dated April 3, 2023 enclosing letter from NOAA Office of Coastal Management to City of Saint Paul dated April 16, 2020 and Saint Paul City Council Resolution 20-10, dated April 27, 2020.