

AP/AL: Appropriation **Project Type:** Research / Studies / Planning
Category: Transportation
Location: Statewide **House District:** Statewide (HD 1-40)
Impact House District: Statewide (HD 1-40) **Contact:** Pat Kemp
Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2013 - 06/30/2018 **Contact Phone:** (907)465-3900

Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

This capital request is to fund year three of the Arctic Ports Study in conjunction with the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). The purpose of this study is to identify potential arctic deepwater port sites that would be a long-term vital asset to national security and to the State's economy. An arctic deepwater port could provide a new, northernmost port for the US Department of Defense and the US Coast Guard (USCG) to protect and patrol the State's arctic waters. In addition, construction of a deepwater port would enhance in-state job growth, support resource development and exploration, and operate as a new intermodal hub between marine and aviation transportation facilities.

Funding:	<u>FY2014</u>	<u>FY2015</u>	<u>FY2016</u>	<u>FY2017</u>	<u>FY2018</u>	<u>FY2019</u>	<u>Total</u>
Gen Fund	\$500,000	\$500,000					\$1,000,000
Total:	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,000,000

<input type="checkbox"/> State Match Required	<input type="checkbox"/> One-Time Project	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - new	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Phased - underway	<input type="checkbox"/> On-Going
0% = Minimum State Match % Required		<input type="checkbox"/> Amendment	<input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health Bill	

Operating & Maintenance Costs:

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Staff</u>
Project Development:	0	0
Ongoing Operating:	0	0
One-Time Startup:	0	0
Totals:	0	0

Prior Funding History / Additional Information:

Sec1 Ch17 SLA2012 P133 L25 SB160 \$1,500,000
 Sec1 Ch5 SLA2011 P101 L11 SB46 \$300,000

This project is focused on studying and evaluating the arctic coast in conjunction with the Army Corps of Engineers for an Arctic deepwater port site.

Project Description/Justification:

The Arctic coast is approximately 927 miles long or 1,492 kilometers, and a high priority for the State of Alaska and all federal agencies. It is in our interest to learn as much as we can about the region and its potential deepwater port sites by working with the Army Corps of Engineers conducting a combination of research and mapping in order to develop a list of potential port sites on the State's arctic coastline. An arctic port in Alaska would serve as a major infrastructure asset as the State, nation, and world continue to evolve. In the short term, this would serve as the northernmost port for the USCG (USCG icebreakers and other vessels require a minimum of -35 feet), the US Navy (USN), and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in order for them to protect and patrol this region, and to develop a greater understanding of the factors involved in the potential economic development of the region. In the long term, a potential Arctic port could be expanded upon

to allow for greater utilization to the state. It could help further diversify the state's economy in many ways. Including:

- The possibility of an arctic port becoming a direct shipping point for resources developed in the western and northern regions of Alaska.
- A major strategic American commercial and military port along the Arctic Coast as vessel traffic increases.
- A major infrastructure asset to any future potential endeavors to produce oil and gas from deepwater reserves in the Arctic Ocean.

Vital information that could potentially be gathered through studies in collaboration with the USACE includes, but is not limited to: depth of water, size and number of vessels, security requirements, hydrographic surveys, ice thickness and movement, operational needs, maintenance requirements, social, economic, and environmental impacts, potential arctic infrastructure development, coastal erosion, storm surge analysis, tsunami inundation analysis, sea rise, disaster preparedness, mitigation and recovery, climate change research, and an understanding of the capabilities of other arctic nations.