

HAINES BOROUGH  
RESOLUTION 07-11-116

**Adopted**

A RESOLUTION OF THE HAINES BOROUGH ASSEMBLY REAFFIRMING ITS SUPPORT OF RESOLUTION 04-04-042 AND ITS PREFERENCE FOR IMPROVED FERRY SERVICE RATHER THAN AN EAST LYNN CANAL HIGHWAY.

Whereas, on October 29, 2007 Governor Sarah Palin's office issued a statement urging people to contact their legislators to support an East Lynn Canal Highway; and,

Whereas, the Haines Borough has repeatedly expressed its preference for improved Alaska Marine Highway service in the upper Lynn Canal and opposed the development of an East Lynn Canal Highway; and,

Whereas, the Haines Borough Assembly adopted resolution 04-04-042 on April 7, 2004, which states:

*"WHEREAS, the Alaska Marine Highway System was created as a public transportation network, serving all Alaskans, supported in part by public funds; and,*

*WHEREAS, the Alaska Marine Highway System serves as Southeast Alaska's road system, effectively providing ferry service to connect the remote communities of Southeast Alaska and promote economic development within the region for over forty years; and,*

*WHEREAS, the construction of new roads would offer minimal enhancements to SE Alaska's transportation system due to the geographic challenges unique to this region; and,*

*WHEREAS, Alaska Marine Highway System is currently in need of investments to ensure continued and improved ferry service in the future; and*

*WHEREAS, the Haines economy is largely dependent upon being a transportation link between Southeast and interior Alaska, the Yukon, and Lower 48; and,*

*WHEREAS, a majority of Haines residents and businesses support improved marine access over a Juneau Road;*

*THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Haines Borough Assembly requests that state and federal governments focus planning and funding strategies for transportation improvements in Southeast Alaska on enhancing marine transportation within the region."; and,*

Whereas, the estimated funds needed for the proposed East Lynn Canal Highway have recently been increased to \$350 million, and this amount would significantly address the many needs of the Marine Highway System,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Haines Borough Assembly:

Section 1: That the Haines Borough Assembly reaffirms its support of Resolution 04-04-042 and preference for improved ferry service rather than an East Lynn Canal Highway;

Section 2: That the Haines Borough Assembly requests the Governor establish a segregated fund for the purpose of replacing the aging fleet and construction of needed ferry terminal modifications;

Section 3: That the Haines Borough pledges its full support and cooperation to develop the Haines Ferry Terminal into a regional hub that will support daily service to the ports of Juneau and Skagway; and

Section 4: That copies of this resolution will be sent to Senator Albert Kookesh, Representative Bill Thomas, and Governor Sarah Palin.

ADOPTED by a duly constituted quorum of the Haines Borough Assembly on the 20<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2007.

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Fred Shields, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Julie Cozzi, Borough Clerk