From: <u>Michael Fleischhauer</u>

To: Senate Finance Committee; Sen. Dennis Egan

Subject: Alaska"s Highways

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Most of our Great Land population is centered around Anchorage and Fairbanks and there are numerous roads and highways in the area. All of the people who live in these areas have access to the many opportunities available there. Certainly it is necessary to keep the roads and highways safe and well-maintained so that the residents can continue to enjoy the necessities and, yes, the luxuries available to them. Such things as groceries, fuel, building supplies, medical facilities and educational facilities are clearly within reach.

Another large portion of our State is not connected to such things by land. Many of these people must rely on the Alaska Marine Highway to reach them.

Therefore, it is necessary - no... it is MORAL and RIGHT - to fund the safe and well-maintained MARINE highway where it exists so that the thousands of residents who rely upon it have access to the same kinds of facilities that are available to those who use the land-based highways.

PLEASE!!! Fund our ferry system. Keep it viable. It is a big part of the life blood of this State and has been since its inception.

Thank you.

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