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**Contact:** Katie Marquette, Press Secretary – (907) 269-7447  
Aileen Cole, Deputy Press Secretary – (907) 269-7458

**Governor Walker Announces Winners of Contest to Name New Ferry Boats**

May 17, 2016 JUNEAU – Governor Bill Walker and Lt. Governor Byron Mallott today announced the names of Alaska's two new ferry vessels. They thanked Tanalian School 7<sup>th</sup> grader Malea Voran of Port Alsworth and Eagle River High School 10<sup>th</sup> grader Taylor Thompson of Eagle River for the winning entries naming the Alaska Class ferries the Tazlina and the Hubbard. According to statute, each ferry is to be christened after one of the state's 745 named glaciers.

In January, the Governor called on Alaska students to submit essays on potential names for the vessels. The two ferries are being built at the Vigor Alaska shipyard in Ketchikan after the Alaska Legislature appropriated funding for the projects in 2009 and 2012. Upon completion in 2018, the ferries will provide day boat service between Juneau, Haines, and Skagway – also known as the North Lynn Canal region.

In all, 448 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> graders submitted essays to name the two new vessels.

"Benny Benson was 13 years old when he won the contest to design Alaska's flag. Similarly, these students are leaving their mark on history by helping name the two most recent additions to our fleet of Alaska Marine Highway System vessels," said Governor Walker. "I'm inspired by all the students who took the time to submit an essay, and I congratulate Malea and Taylor for their award-winning entries."

In her essay, Malea Voran explained that Tazlina, an Ahtna Athabaskan name meaning "swift river," is an appropriate name for a ferry, which should be named after something swift and agile. "This name would remind us that even small things are capable of doing big things. This small boat could be named after something big and inspiring," Malea wrote.

Taylor Thompson wrote her essay on the Hubbard Glacier, which, unlike most glaciers, has been thickening and advancing into Disenchantment Bay for over a century. "This glorious slab of ice has defied its predisposition and proved to be a true wonder. An Alaskan ferry should be just as incredible," Taylor wrote.