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SOUTHEAST ALASKA REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

March 6, 2018

Honorable Representative Adam Wool, Co-Chair  
Honorable Louise Stutes, Co-Chair  
House Transportation members  
Alaska State Legislature  
State Capital  
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: Next steps for AMHS Reform – statutory changes

Dear Co-Chairs and House Transportation committee members:

Southeast Conference and our statewide steering committee and stakeholders are so appreciative for the opportunity last month to present the update on our 2-year project to identify solutions for the Alaska Marine Highway System. The strategic business and operations plan provides guidance on governance changes and operational strategies that can bring a more businesslike mindset to the transportation enterprise.

We understand that the continued public process will likely take a couple of years to refine and enact. Our goal is to work with the Dept. of Transportation to institute changes to the greatest extent possible until statutory efforts can be implemented.

On behalf of the statewide steering committee, we would respectfully request that the House Transportation committee sponsor the first bill that would establish the Alaska Marine Highway Corporation.

We look forward to working with the committee during upcoming hearings to consider the bill and subsequent amendments that would transform the Alaska Marine Highway System into a viable and more reliable component of the State's intermodal transportation system.

Sincerely,

Robert Venables  
Executive Director  
Southeast Conference

