

From: [Charlotte Carroll](#)
To: [House Transportation](#)
Subject: Fwd: ferry
Date: Friday, July 26, 2019 1:10:27 PM

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: Charlotte Carroll <char@akcarroll.net>
Date: July 16, 2019 at 6:52:54 PM AKDT
To: dot.amhs.comments@alaska.gov
Subject: Re: ferry

We are extremely unhappy with the current winter ferry schedule for Cordova!
We are loosing our ferry service for 7 MONTHS! The longest of any area! The ferry is our highway to the mainland! We use it numerous times each year to go to Whittier and on to Anchorage for medical appointments and to do shopping! Many Seniors from here use the Ferry for medical! Not having a ferry will devastate the schools sports program as it is used to transport teams to and from Cordova. We are sure the cost of living will increase as groceries and other items will cost more to get here! Also we are already looking at higher electrical costs due to the Power Cost program being cut for rural Alaska! This also affects all the local people who work for the Ferry, they will be loosing their jobs! The effects of no Ferry service are far reaching and we urge you to find a way to provide some Ferry service to Cordova! Thank you!
Virgil Carroll 52 year resident
Charlette Carroll 72 year resident
PO Box 319
Cordova, Alaska 99574
Char@akcarroll.net

Sent from my iPad



Cordova District Fishermen United
PO Box 939 | 509 First Street | Cordova, AK 99574
phone. (907) 424 3447 | fax. (907) 424 3430
web. www.cdfu.org

July 25, 2019

Commissioner John MacKinnon
Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities
P.O. Box 112500
Juneau, AK 99811-2500

Dear Commissioner MacKinnon,

Cordova District Fishermen United is a non-profit organization representing over 900 commercial fishing families who participate in commercial fisheries in Alaska's Area E, which includes Prince William Sound, the Copper River region and the northern-central Gulf of Alaska. It is our mission to preserve, promote and perpetuate the commercial fishing industry in Area E and to further promote safety at sea, legislation, conservation, management and general welfare for the mutual benefit of all our members.

Many of these fishermen reside in various parts of the state, including Anchorage, Wasilla, Fairbanks, and Homer, and depend on the Alaska Marine Highway Service to bring their vehicles, vessel trailers, food, and gear provisions for the season, and for many, an RV or travel trailer to house their families during the 6 month fishing season. The Alaska Marine Highway provides essential access to live and work in the vibrant communities across Alaska, and it contributes to our ability to utilize our natural resources sustainably, providing economic benefits to the entire state.

Fishermen who must leave town with their vehicles prior to the departure of the Alaska Marine Highway System mid-September risk missing 2 weeks of fishing time at the end of the season, leaving families facing considerable negative implications financially. This will result in a loss of income well in the thousands for fishing families who typically fish until the end of the season and leave in early October -- money that would otherwise pay for rising housing, food, and energy costs throughout the winter.

Fishing families who winter in Cordova, and who are working during the summer months may not have the opportunity to go to Anchorage for routine medical care, carefully planned maternity care, or to "stock up" etc. until after the fishing season is over. Service into the late fall and throughout the winter is critical for these families to meet basic needs without having to



miss fishing time. While summer months are important for both tourism and transportation of goods and residents, regular winter service is imperative for year-round residents who depend on the Alaska Marine Highway Service to transit between Alaska's urban and rural areas.

A service gap for Cordova could mean labor shortages as seasonal employees leave earlier than is typical, which poses impacts to processing capacity and may close fish processing facilities, resulting in a loss to individual fishermen, the community at large, and fewer dollars into the state economy overall.

If commercial fishermen are unable to transport their vessel trailers or nets using the Alaska Marine Highway System, Alaskan small businesses and families around the state may incur additional expenses to accommodate for the lack of service, such as purchasing an additional trailer and vehicle to use on the road system, in addition to their trailer and storage expenses here in Cordova. A winter service gap disrupts the movement of equipment freely between Alaskan communities following the fishing season. In some cases, this burden could be up to 15 or 20 thousand dollars of additional expenses placed on small business owners.

The Alaska Marine Highway System also provides access for individuals to reach important regulatory meetings held in Anchorage and other communities with land-based road access such as the Board of Fisheries, and North Pacific Fishery Management Council, which are all held throughout the winter months. It is imperative that commercial fishermen and rural residents maintain their ability to participate in the public processes that help shape and manage the fisheries in Prince William Sound and the Gulf of Alaska. In 2019 and 2020, these meetings take place throughout the month of October (1-9, 22-24), early December (2-10), and mid-March (7-11), all of which are impacted by the proposed winter AMHS schedule, which will result in lower participation by commercial fishermen at these important meetings.

Further, many fishing families who participate in Area E fisheries, but live elsewhere in the state typically return to Cordova in April to begin early season boat work and spring fisheries, and rely on the Alaska Marine Highway well in advance of the salmon season's start in mid-May. The proposed schedule does not include Cordova during this period, when regular ferry service is most essential to our fishing fleet. The Copper River gillnet fishery traditionally begins the week of May 15, and losing ferry service in the weeks leading up to this fishery would be a considerable detriment to fishermen who utilize the ferry to transport equipment and crew prior to the start of the season.



Cordova District Fishermen United
PO Box 939 | 509 First Street | Cordova, AK 99574
phone. (907) 424 3447 | fax. (907) 424 3430
web. www.cdfu.org

Though there are numerous reasons for continuing reliable winter service to Cordova, we ask you to please consider these impacts on our fisheries, which are the primary driving force in Cordova's economy, and provide millions of dollars in economic benefits to the state of Alaska. Alaska's fisheries are one of the largest private employers within our state and provide up to 56,000 jobs statewide, and the commercial fishing industry depends on continued access to coastal communities using our maritime infrastructure.

Thank you for your time and consideration of these comments as you revise the Prince William Sound winter service schedule.

Sincerely,

Chelsea Haisman
Executive Director

TO: ALASKA DOT

JULY 26, 2019

AMHS IS OUR LIFELINE-

FOR COMMERCE AND AS AN ESSENTIAL STATE SERVICE

As a 33 year resident of Cordova with over 20 years on the Board of Directors of the Cordova Chamber of Commerce, over 30 years as a Commercial Fisherman and an owner/operator of 3 businesses here in Cordova for 25 years -

I KNOW that THE FERRY IS CRITICAL TO OUR TOWN'S COMMERCE AND WELL BEING!

All of our businesses **DEPEND** on the goods freighted in on the ferry, the visitors & tradespeople who travel in on the ferry, as well as **OUR** ability to **TRAVEL IN & OUT** ourselves to attend to business activities in Anchorage.

ANY REDUCTION to its schedule will **GREATLY** increase our cost of living, **REDUCE** our customer base and in many more ways **DEBILITATE US**.

LOSING IT COMPLETELY FOR MONTHS WILL CRIPPLE US – AND LIKELY CLOSE BUSINESSES AND RESULT IN RESIDENTS MOVING.

PLEASE DO EVERYTHING YOU CAN TO MAINTAIN THIS - OUR ONLY HIGHWAY - THAT SUPPORTS US DOING BUSINESS IN OUR HOME STATE.

Respectfully,

Osa Arnold-Schultz
PO BOX 1291
CORDOVA, ALASKA 99574
(907)424-5269

dba

F/V MY PRIME TIME gillnetter - 38 yr
MOBILE GRID TRAILERS, INC - Service business - 33 yr
PET PROJECTS UNLIMITED - Retail business - 31 yr
SEAVIEW CONDO - Lodging business - 23 yr

Native Village of Eyak
110 Nicholoff Way
P.O. Box 1388
Cordova, Alaska 99574-1388
P (907) 424-7738 * F (907) 424-7739
www.eyak-usn.gov



10,000 years in our Traditional Homeland, Prince William Sound, the Copper River Delta, and the Gulf of Alaska

July 25, 2019

Re: Proposed ferry schedule changes for Prince William Sound

Dear Alaska Legislature:

The Native Village of Eyak is a federally recognized self-governing Tribe with 10,000 years in our Traditional Homeland, Prince William Sound, the Copper River Delta, and the Gulf of Alaska. The Native Village of Eyak Traditional Tribal Council is the duly elected governing body of the Tribe.

We write in strong support of the Alaska Marine Highway System, which provides essential services to more than 35 coastal communities in Alaska, including Cordova. Those essential services include transportation for medical services, grocery shopping, job opportunities, school educational, sports, and extracurricular trips, tourism, vacation, cultural activities, and our fishing industry. The Anchorage economy also benefits from coastal residents spending money on purchases, meals, entertainment, and lodging while away from home.

In addition to the drastic reduction in air and cargo services Cordova has experienced over the last two years, large gaps without ferry service will be detrimental to many families already struggling with the high costs of living in rural Alaska. It also makes it hard for our local US Coast Guard marine and air stations to justify bringing in and keeping families in Cordova. Their presence in our community is critical to not only our commercial fishing grounds, but also any sport or leisure activities on our around our waterways. A shutdown of the Alaska Marine Highway System would have devastating and unavoidable impacts on the communities it serves.

The Native Village of Eyak suggests this option: Operate Aurora 4 days on and 3 days off in the week. The Aurora would need to get (2) regulatory extensions to continue operations, during which time the Hubbard gets the side doors installed and the minor modifications happen to the Whittier terminal. Then deploy the Hubbard with the same crew and schedule for the rest of the winter servicing primarily the Cordova – Whittier route as a day boat.

On behalf of the Native Village of Eyak, we strongly urge you to reconsider the proposed funding and schedule cuts to our ferry service and consider alternate solutions for Prince William Sound.

Respectfully,

Darrel Olsen
Tribal Council Chairman
Native Village of Eyak



July 25, 2019

Commissioner John MacKinnon
Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities
P.O. Box 112500
Juneau, AK 99811-2500

Dear Commissioner MacKinnon,

I'm writing to you today on behalf of the Cordova Chamber of Commerce, a non-profit membership organization focused on destination marketing, quality of life enhancement, leadership advancement and economic development of the Cordova area. As the voice of the Cordova business community with members comprising a variety of industries including lodging, transportation, outfitting, retail, shipping, seafood harvesting, processing and many other areas; we urge you to consider a more fair and reasonable winter schedule for Prince William Sound. **Specifically, we are requesting twice per month roundtrip service from Cordova to Whittier, with potential for whistle-stops at Chenega, Tatitlek and Valdez, should demand or special events warrant.** I have attached a listing of Cordova events and tournaments to the best of my knowledge, around which these sailings could perhaps be structured. A more detailed list including other PWS community events can be sent to you as soon as unknown dates are finalized.

No doubt reliable ferry service will add to the quality of life for our residents, but from the standpoint of the Chamber of Commerce, this is a vitally needed economic engine. The Alaska Marine Highway system is one of the vital, essential ways in and out of Cordova and a necessary shipping avenue for our businesses and our Copper River Salmon fishery. The ferry transports our livelihoods. It is our connection to the rest of the world. It is our road. While summer months are important for both tourism and transportation of goods and residents, regular winter service is imperative for year-round residents who depend on the Alaska Marine Highway Service for health and business reasons. With commercial fishing season continuing into late September, the proposed service gap for Cordova would definitely impact fishermen's incomes. It could also mean labor shortages as seasonal employees leave earlier than is typical -- posing impacts to processing capacity and possibly closing fish processing facilities; resulting in a loss to individual fishermen, the community at large, and fewer dollars into the state economy overall. Additionally, the Copper River gillnet fishery traditionally begins the week of May 15 and losing ferry service in the weeks leading up to this fishery would be a considerable detriment to fishermen who utilize the ferry to transport equipment and crew prior to the start of the season. We ask you to please consider these impacts on our fisheries, which are the primary driving force in Cordova's economy, and provide millions of dollars in economic benefits to the state of Alaska.

We realize the State faces many financial challenges and there is no Alaskan that has not been impacted in some way. However, the cuts to Prince William Sound marine transportation service on the current draft of the Winter 2019/2020 AMHS schedule seem disproportionately large compared to other regions. I understand you have been instructed to focus on revenue generation when making your schedule. However, were you to consider each PWS route separately, you would see that the Cordova – Whittier route is routinely one of the most profitable routes in the system. When the governor released his budget draft that called for a \$68 million cut, none of the scenarios put forth by DOT showed this level of service disruption for Prince William Sound. Although a \$44 million cut to AMHS funding is still

From: [rhohnholz](#)
To: [House Transportation](#)
Subject: AMHS Funding
Date: Saturday, July 27, 2019 12:09:24 PM

To whom it may concern:

For years, I have wanted to be a resident of Alaska. I met my wife here, and now we wish to raise our kids here. We have only been Alaska residents for a year. Specifically, we moved to Cordova for the opportunities that we knew the town would provide for our young family. Both my wife and I work in the school system and are passionate about helping build powerful education opportunities for our youth. We absolutely wish to stay and make a go at living in this rural coastal town, but due to the weighty budget cuts to the AMHS, we find ourselves on the fence.

We have it pretty easy. Some folks are tied to Cordova, have family and businesses in Cordova. We have the ability to head back to the lower 48 should we deem Alaska unlivable, and it seems that even some native Alaskans may consider similar moves should they deem them necessary. What a shame; to lose so many valuable community members at the expense of a rushed and hasty budget.

It's not easy to afford the cost of living here when the ferry *is* running. Our first trips to the grocery store were eye-opening. That's not all. As Cordovans, we utilize the ferry for medical trips, groceries, building materials, student extracurriculars, visiting family, just to name a few. All of these activities help support Alaska's economy and allow us to maintain a decent lifestyle in rural Alaska. How are we, the citizens of Cordova, supposed to function with no ferry access for 7 months? I understand that the budget is limited, but to completely deny our community access to mainland Alaska via the marine highway is much like shutting down a major interstate for 7 months. I know that we are not the only community negatively affected by this proposed budget, but we are certainly one of the hardest hit.

Please do whatever you can to salvage an AMHS budget that allows for ferry travel to and from coastal Alaska towns.

There is no doubt that the effect of this current crippling budget will be felt on many levels. Please help.

Thanks for your time and consideration,
Rob Ammerman

From: [Susan Harding](#)
To: [House Transportation](#)
Subject: Ferry schedule for Cordova
Date: Saturday, July 27, 2019 1:47:19 PM

Dear Legislators,

I beg you to consider the fact that the ferry is the Marine Highway for Cordova. It is our only highway and connects us to greater Alaska. Without service for a 7 ,month period puts all Cordovans in jeopardy. This means that the cost of goods coming to our community will increase. It means that our athletes will not be able to compete unless they travel by air which as you know is extremely expensive and prohibitive. It means that tourists and others who bring income to our community will not be coming to Cordova. It means many possible problems will occur as a result of this schedule.

Please consider your vote on this issue carefully. It will affect not only Cordova but many other Alaskans as well.

Sincerely,
Susan Harding
Cordovva Resident

From: [Bret Bradford](#)
To: [House Transportation](#)
Subject: AMHS Comments 7/29
Date: Saturday, July 27, 2019 1:50:03 PM

A 7 or eight month gap in ferry service to Cordova will have a heavy impact on many aspects of life here.

All small businesses will have to pay 3 to five times as much to get freight in and out.

School activities participants will be paying 5 to six times more than they budgeted for student travel. The only option in or out for activities is to fly and rent ground transportation.

Seafood processors will have to pay 2 to five times more to get our product to market. With that type of affect on profit margin, smaller processors face devastating losses. Some may fold up altogether.

These example are just a few of many,many negative effects on our community.

Bret Bradford
402 Railroad Row
Cordova, Ak

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Sylvia Lange](#)
To: [House Transportation](#)
Subject: AMHS Funding & Reform
Date: Saturday, July 27, 2019 2:51:20 PM

House Transportation Committee Meeting in person testimony
Sylvia Lange
One Cannery Row
Cordova, Alaska

July 27, 2019

Thank you for being here. I am Sylvia Lange, Tlingit and Aleut on my maternal grandmothers' side, German and Dane immigrants on my paternal grandfathers' side. I was born and raised here. My husband and I are local business people, in the hospitality business and in fisheries. We have been self-employed our entire lives. Our three grown children were born and raised here.

This community, which has had a year-round ferry since 1966, this community which sits on the site of a Native village has been here for millennia, and incorporated in 1909, is a microcosm of what Alaska looks like. We are an important resource extraction community. Originally incorporated to be the terminus of the railroad that hauled copper from Kennicott, Cordova has maintained a significant place as a seafood processing port in the nation. As a home rule city, we have also maintained our schools, roads, airports, sewer and basic utilities for all that time.

The 3K PFD that seems to be holding government by the short hairs? Well, I lost that 2 weeks ago, when this new ferry schedule was announced. To continue to support our community, our property taxes and sales tax will more than likely increase. And continue to do so, as these cuts will also mean the burden will be spread over fewer residents.

I know you are not here to take testimony about all the cuts, but more specifically about the ferry service. That certainly is a major public service for us. On that topic, I would also like to put in a plug for the AMHS Reform initiative that was started a few years back. The ferry system has not operated very systematically for a long, long time now. The Alaska Marine Highway System was once a real source of pride for this state. One would be hard-pressed to find vision and plans that reached ahead without going back perhaps as far as Governors Egan and Hickie. The system has been managed piecemeal from administration to administration. The only thing that resembles a system has been its systematic dismantling.

As stakeholders, customers and employees of AMHS, we have nowhere to go with concerns, plans, ideas, input. It is completely operated as a top-down system, with the top spot the Governor. I don't recall any of our Governor's running on the platform of being an expert on running a complex transportation system, but that's what we expect of our Governors and Legislators. As the end users and investors in the system, we are more often than not, the last ones to know of current plans.

The AMHS Reform was two years of in-depth work with stakeholders from all across the state, not just from the communities directly served. We came up with a governance plan that we felt could better serve the complexities of a modern transportation system. A place where experts in the field could make decisions based on a good business model and somewhat insulated from the political process. I would implore this committee to take a long hard look at the plan and work with the committee looking into the future. It would ultimately save you a lot of time listening about service lives of boats, shipyard schedules, employee strikes and demands, and community protests. A new governance model for the AMHS would allow forward thinking instead of crises reaction.

Nonetheless, thank you for reacting to our very real present crises.

From: tamarapmartin@yahoo.com
To: [House Transportation](#)
Subject: Testimony for Transportation Committee
Date: Saturday, July 27, 2019 4:27:27 PM

Please accept this testimony regarding the current proposed winter ferry schedule for Cordova

July 27,2019

To the Transportation Commission,

When your 7 year old asks you what the government does or why we pay taxes your answer is simple. Off the top of your head you say, well,it's for our roads, police, firefighters and schools...

Notice roads is usually in the top three?

When your inquisitive 10 year old says mom, if our friend lives at 2 mile on the Copper River Highway, where do the miles start? You say, actually it starts at the ferry terminal, isn't that cool?!!! Because it's part of our highway system!

These aren't hard questions.... or answers.

I understand it's hard times, I understand that the state of Alaska isn't producing as much oil as it used to. In 1964 we produced 30 thousand barrels a day, the 90's were a hayday, Now we produce approx 500 thousand barrels per day. Let's be clear, we are not a poor state. Many states would love to have such an income source and be so resource rich.

I read this this morning on the DOT website....

In 1964, Kodiak, Cordova, Homer, Seldovia, Valdez, and Seward were added to the system and serviced by the MV Tustumena. As service extended to additional communities, Alaskans gained access to not only their coastal neighbors, but to other parts of North America – and at a price that was often more reasonable than other forms of transportation.

These are the states words, not mine.

Now surely if we thought this was important BEFORE we were such a wealthy state, life in Alaska's coastal communities hasn't changed that much and Alaska's values havent changed that much.

As a child and young adult born and raised Cordova. My ferry trips in my lifetime to and from Cordova have been numerous in all seasons,for many many school activities, appointments, trips to see family in other parts of the state . It connected me to my home state and allowed me to have experiences andfriendships in other Alaskan towns in a way that would be impossible through air travel alone. It helped me and every kid who grew up in this town, identify as Alaskan.

Anecdote- Last night as I was with my daughter and her friends were hanging out and I overheard their fear. Their fear of how expensive this town will be, about how their parents will afford to fly to Anchorage,about whether they'd get a sports season. About whether their families need move because of this. This is Alaska's future.

Only a few weeks ago the ferry schedule announced that there would be no ferry for the whole winter. With no advance notice and no consistency. How can families plan, and schools. And businesses.

Though this is no longer my full time residence my husband makes our full income for our family in the fishing industry here, Where I will point out he pays no income taxes to the state of Alaska. Our other home in Vermont is absolutely not as generous when it comes to taxes. I visit often and am in fact currently stranded here as my children and I arrived and had planned to leave on the ferry. Cordova is full of my family, aunties, uncles, cousins, siblings , grandparents and of course my parents,some who are unable to testify today. Whom all rely on winter

ferry service to do their personal and commercial business throughout the state. Some of these family members have medical needs where long term and sometimes frequent visits are required. Trips to see family, make purchases and other reasons. Flying and renting a car for these visits is a huge expense.

The answer isn't to move to Anchorage, THIS is their home. It has been their home for decades. It IS part of Alaska. Alaska is an amazing and unique state amongst the states in the union, because of its beautiful but rugged landscape, it's full of Coastal communities that aren't on the road system. For the last 55 years, the state has understood that, and made a way to keep them connected.

I ask those making these decisions, are you Alaskan? Truly Alaskan? Do you understand that we are too?

Then don't tell us that because of the state's mismanagement of 11 ferries, only 3 will be in service for the winter and you simply can't serve our town right now. Or for the next 8 months

I urge you to Fix the problem.

Take care of your citizens and be proud to say that Alaska ran smooth and strong while you were at the helm.

Sincerely, Tamara Martin
Summer resident, Cordova Alaska

From: [Barb Jewell](#)
To: [House Transportation](#)
Subject: Fwd: Marine Highway service and schedule
Date: Saturday, July 27, 2019 4:29:59 PM

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Barb Jewell <bjewell@cordovasd.org>
Date: July 25, 2019 at 8:01:47 PM AKDT
To: dot.amhs.comments@alaska.gov
Subject: **Marine Highway service and schedule**

To Whom It May Concern,

I want to express my deep opposition to the current proposed AMHS schedule. Under the current proposal, Cordova, a community NOT connected to the road system, will have no service from September 12 to May 15th. This is akin to saying we are not going to plow the Seward highway south of Girdwood for the winter. Or the George Parks Highway, or the ALCAN. It is like saying "Hey-those folks have airports-they can fly."

The Alaska Marine Highway System is called just that-**the Highway System**. It is our highway, our road. It is not a revenue generating tourist business. It is basic infrastructure. And every study shows that a dollar invested in the Marine Highway system pays substantial returns!

Under the current proposal, if a person in Cordova has a car accident, there is no way to get their car to an auto body shop to repair (business for Anchorage). Or better yet they want to buy a new car- but no way to get it here. (Again potential business for Anchorage or the Mat Su Valley).

Under the current proposal, the students in Cordova no longer have an affordable way to travel to competition (Cross country, basketball, national Ocean Sciences Bowl, Band Regional Competition....). I have already heard from families who are looking to send their children to other communities or move themselves because without ferry service their children will no longer have access to the activities that support a child's well rounded education. Not to mention the difficulty recruiting qualified teachers to a community which will be cut off from ferry service for more than half the year.

Under the current proposal, the cost of living for Cordovans and all of those living on the AMHS routes increase astronomically as a result of this proposal. It impacts access to food, health care, public safety and all basic services.

The Transportation budget needs to consider the needs of all Alaskans- not just

those on the "road system". This proposal is bad for education, bad for business, bad for Cordova and bad for Alaska!

Barb Jewell
Chair, Cordova School District Board of Education



Virus-free. www.avg.com

From: [Sandra Van Dyck](#)
To: [House Transportation](#)
Subject: Ferry service Cordova
Date: Saturday, July 27, 2019 5:12:17 PM

To Whom It May Concern:

I came to Alaska in 1975 before the oil was running and the state was rich. Cordova had ferry service then, and I believe it was not a fight to have it.. Come to think of it, the ferry was my first ride into Cordova after my first year at UAF, which is now under the gun too.

My point is, the Marine Highway is not a cruise ship for our enjoyment, but it is the road which takes us to college, to our medical appointments. It is our road to visit family; it is our road to purchase a vehicle and other supplies; it is a road to watch our kids play sports and other school related endeavors. It is a ROAD!

Please reconsider the elimination of ferry service for seven plus months to Cordova. Cordovans thank you.

Regards,
Sandra Van Dyck
907.253.9957
301 Observation Ave
PO Box 473
Cordova, AK 99574

Resident of Cordova since 1975

Sent from my iPad

I live at 402 Adams Ave. here in Cordova.

Hi, I'm Keila Gonzalez. I want to say today that I'm SO thankful for the ferry service that Cordova has had because during my Jr. High and High School years, I was in band and played on the basketball team.

I was usually just on the JV team, but the ferry service made it possible for ALL of us to travel sometimes. And I got to go to Music Festival. It was a great experience. I LOVE being included!!!

For the last 8 years, the ferry service has also made it possible for a friend and I to attend Special Olympics Camp Shriver for 2 weeks in July in Anchorage. Plane tickets for us and 2 caregivers, and summer car rental would be TOO expensive. We have a wonderful time at Camp Shriver every year. I am very grateful for this experience.

Please continue to include ALL of us! Thank you.

Cliff Ward
204 1st St.
P.O. Box 264
Cordova, 99574

7/27/19

Re: Cutting Cordova out of winter ferry service completely ++.

To whom it may concern:

Seems to be a common thread/Theme in government recently;

Gut public service w/no Plan B...

[End 'Obamacare' without anything to replace it with, End or drastically cut out public programs vital to kids, women, Alaska Natives, the less-fortunate, the elderly, Veterans, and others. in this state (and country). And in this case, ABANDONING CORDOVA TO FEND FOR ITSELF THRU THE WINTER w/o AK Marine Hwy system to access the other parts of South Central...w/NO PLAN B? NO PLAN B! JUST ABANDON US?] That while slashing the budget at the behest of an 'outside' consultant the governor has as his hired hatchet...someone not even familiar w/ Alaska, it's people, cultures, challenges, and spirit.

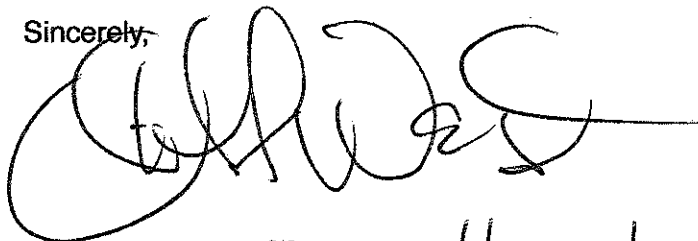
All THIS while \$1.2 Billion in tax breaks is given to Multi-national oil corporations? Are international corporations and others outside the state calling the shots of who gets what in this state? Who is this governor actually working for?

And NOW with the IBU on STRIKE? SETTLE CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS NOW!, what, after 3 years kicking the can down the road?

DON'T ABANDON CORDOVA AND KODIAK AND ALL THE OTHER COASTAL COMMUNITIES that depend of the Marine Hwy System as part of their community's economic engine, a medical life-line to those who depend on it for health services, school kids and families to enrich their education, etc., etc.

What is this, RULE BY TYRANNY? You know what the framers of the constitution said about THAT, right?

Sincerely,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cliff Ward'.

Cliff Ward
35 year Cordova resident

clward@al.net

From: [Anica Estes](#)
To: [House Transportation](#)
Subject: Cordova
Date: Saturday, July 27, 2019 6:10:11 PM

My name is Anica Estes and I came to Cordova via the ferry, in 1990 to help my parents, who had taken jobs here, move here. I met a local born and raised boy and 39 years, 2 human children, 2 fur babies, 4 commercial fishing boats and a home later, the rest is history.

We are a fisher family. We chose to live in Cordova because my husband and I both grew up in small communities and love the safety and the opportunities a small town offers children. We chose to live in Cordova because in all the years we've been here, even though we've had to fight for it year after year, we've had a ferry that allows access to Whittier and ultimately Anchorage. We chose to live here because our children have still had the ability to travel for school activities.

The proposed ferry schedule, a "gap" in service for 8 solid months, is a travesty and completely unacceptable. I have quotations around the word "gap" because that's what this lack of service is being called by the media and by politicians. Eight months without ferry service is not a "gap"; it's a void. It's a black hole for our community.

Cordova is the only community with this long of a "gap". We are also the only community without full on hospital services, a full time veterinarian, a Costco, Fred Meyer or Walmart. Cordova has one flight a day south and one flight a day north. The proposed "gap" in service will make our community literally more isolated than Unalaska! Grasp that concept! Cordova will be more cut off, more inaccessible than an island in the Aleutian Chain if this proposed schedule is passed.

Eight months without service, September 13th thru May 12th is essentially telling local, year round residents that we don't matter. This is our ROAD! Please Read the AMHS mission statement. AMHS is not a revenue generating entity. I know of no state run road or ferry system that is expected to make money. We pay to ride our highway. No paved road patron in this state pays to drive their highway and they cost millions to maintain.

Keep our ferry service.

Anica, Steve, Keegan and Asha Estes

From: [Penelope Oswalt](#)
To: [House Transportation](#)
Cc: [Rep. Louise Stutes](#)
Subject: Public Testimony at Cordova Public Hearing re:
Date: Monday, July 29, 2019 10:48:33 AM

My name is Penelope Oswalt
240 Eyak Drive, Cordova, Ak 99574
42 year resident.
This is the testimony that I gave at the House Finance Committee in
Cordova, Alaska on Saturday, July 24th, 2019.

The Alaska Marine Highway is part of the National Highway system,
designed as the transportation corridor for rural Alaska. The state
receives federal funds to insure this happens. Our road is no less
important than any other road in Alaska!! Are funds being cut for the
Glenn, the Sterling, the Richardson, The Seward Highway's? Are they
being deprived of service?

With these tax cuts and poor long term planning an 8 month service
deficit. The schedule posted at the Ferry Terminal has no ferry
running from Sept 12 to May 12th, 2020.
This means some Fishermen will lose up to 2-3 weeks of fishing at the
end of their season and 1-2 weeks at the beginning of their season.
This will have a huge economic impact on the people and businesses in
our Community that relies on our fleet.

Our children will have limited participation in sports and educational
events around the state, our access to additional medical care in
Anchorage, Military transport, shopping opportunities, families and
tourist coming to visit, and business travel.

My family and I need to schedule multiple medical procedures in
Anchorage throughout the winter. Airfare and car rental makes it cost
prohibitive to fly and plan for a lengthy stay.

This is our home, we live here, we want to grow, we want our road!
But the decisions being made this year may cause those that want to
invest in our City question if this is where they want to start a
business or choose to raise their children.

Many have worked diligently for several years on the AMHS reform plan
to keep our Marine highway system alive and sustainable. With these
proposed cuts in the current budget, Cordova, Valdez, Whittier,
Chenega, Tatitlek and yes, Anchorage, Mat-Su and Fairbanks are the
losers. We want you as our legislators to help keep our rural
communities economically alive and viable.

Please take the politics out of our transportation system and
legislative decision making. Do long term planning. Keep current, and
build new vessels that work in PWS, Southcentral and Southeast.

To fund this, I urge you to roll back the credits to the Oil Companies
and charge what other oil States charge to harvest resources,
institute a State Education and Income Tax to insure all users of

Alaska systems pay their fair share, reduce the PDF to what was originally intended, a bonus but not something to support your families on.

Alaska is so much more than Anchorage, Fairbanks or Juneau. Save our Ferry!
Thank you for coming to Cordova to hear our voices and thank you for giving up your time to do so.

From: [Michael Anderson](#)
To: [House Transportation](#)
Subject: Testimony
Date: Monday, July 29, 2019 11:00:03 AM

Honorable Legislators, thank you for listening to us.

I am Michael Anderson, a 37 year resident of Cordova. The ferry in Prince William Sound is critical infrastructure to the well being of Cordova. I am a ceramic artist, I use the ferry to get my work to galleries and to permanent public installations. The Ferry has carried my work to installations in Kodiak, Homer, Anchorage, Port Alsworth and Mat-Su. This year we have already used the ferry in transporting my art to Port Alsworth and to get a broken ankle to Anchorage doctors.

In the late 1990's I was in on the Prince William Sound Transportation Plan. We looked at all transportation alternatives for the sound. The Copper River Highway was one alternative with a price tag of at least 250 million dollars to build and a maintenance cost of about 1.3 million each year (in 1990). If we combine that maintenance cost of the road with the 2.5 million in fares collected annually (2015) the cost of the ferry (2015) seems pretty close to a wash in comparison to the road. In the summer, when the ferry is returning 65% or better it is not costing more than a road would have cost and is potentially making money.

Make sure this ferry is funded CDV to Whittier, so I and my fellow business people can continue to utilize this economic infrastructure link.

And direct the Governor that he should use the work of the AMHS reform initiative.

Michael Anderson, Cordova



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visit my website at www.michaelandersonartist.com

"The true sign of intelligence is not knowledge but imagination." Albert Einstein

From: [Faith Wheeler-Jeppson](#)
To: [House Transportation](#)
Subject: Comments on 2019-2020 Winter Schedule
Date: Monday, July 29, 2019 11:55:52 AM

Good afternoon,

I'll be brief in my comment as I'm certain you've been inundated with comments from folks much like myself.

I am a permanent resident of Cordova, Alaska and we rely on the Alaska Marine Highway System to get to Anchorage for medical appointments, bulk groceries, Christmas shopping and just to get out of Cordova and visit family that are on the road system. Can you close your eyes and imagine not being able to go further than 4 or five miles from town center? To have your options now be cut so low that you're not sure how you'll make it. We already had "No Road" and now our marine highway is being pulled out from under us as well.

There has to be options that ensure that the ferry doesn't have to go to and from Cordova unoccupied, but still leave us with an option other than nothing for 8 months. Has a once a month Cordova to Valdez option been discussed?

Faith Wheeler ~Jeppson

Executive Assistant to the CEO
Compliance Officer
Marketing Coordinator
Travel & Housing Coordinator

Cordova Community Medical Center
PO Box 160
Cordova, Alaska 99574

www.cdvcmc.com



“We can change the world and make it a better place. It is in our hands to make a difference”. – Nelson Mandela

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From: [Linden O'Toole](#)
To: [House Transportation](#)
Subject: Comments on 2019-2020 Winter Schedule
Date: Monday, July 29, 2019 11:56:38 AM

PLEASE change the proposed drastic loss of ferry service to Cordova!

- It is disproportionately HUGE for Cordova verses other communities
- It is abrupt

This is essentially a ROAD CLOSURE to our town, and has similar trickle-down effects that a road closure to any town would have

- Our gathering of 250-400 people to the hearing on Saturday is proportional to if 30,000 people gathering in Anchorage, despite that fact that a huge portion of our population was fishing at the time
- We need at least twice-a-month service in the winter, with about 2 nights in Anchorage to get our medical, repair, and requisitioning appointments completed
- The impacts to Cordova would be far-reaching and very detrimental. PLEASE DON'T THROW US UNDER THE BUS!!!

I know your job is difficult, and I thank you from the bottom of my heart for whatever consideration you can give us!

Blessings,

Linden O'Toole
907-253-3199

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From: [Ben Yeamans](#)
To: [House Transportation](#)
Subject: Comments on 2019-2020 Winter Schedule
Date: Monday, July 29, 2019 12:05:38 PM

To whom it may concern,

I am an out of state hunter and I have a moose hunt starting, of all times, on September 14th. I planned my trip logistics around having access to Cordova via ferry. This new schedule has complicated my trip and significantly increased the transportation costs.

The ferry change will impact my decisions on where to apply to hunt in the future.

Respectfully,
Ben Yeamans
New Mexico

From: [Harborside Pizza](#)
To: [House Transportation](#)
Subject: Comments on AMHS Winter Schedule
Date: Monday, July 29, 2019 12:12:39 PM

Hello,

I am writing to express the concern about the ferry funding and the schedule.

My wife and I run a local eating establishment and use the ferry year round.

I was at the meeting Saturday in Cordova, and my sentiments are the same as many who spoke.

Please fully fund our marine highway. We are planning on the state fair but if we can not ride the ferry we are not going. Think of the kids and sports teams, medical trips, fisherman, grocery runs, and all the many visitors that will not come if we have zero service this winter.

Thank you.

Brian Wildrick

From: [Kendra Zamzow](#)
To: [House Transportation](#)
Subject: Alaska Marine Highway System
Date: Monday, July 29, 2019 12:32:04 PM

Dear members of the House Transportation Committee:

I live in landlocked Chickaloon, served primarily by the Glenn Highway but connected via the Glenn to the Richardson and Parks Highways. In fact, as I type this my cousin from Fairbanks is traveling to Chickaloon along one of those two highways -- the driving distance from her house to mine is the same regardless of which she chooses.

I have friends in Cordova that are bringing materials to display in Anchorage for their business; the display will be up for two months and they will be traveling between Valdez, Anchorage, and McCarthy for two weeks. Because of the ferry strike, I have found a car they can use. While the strike situation was unexpected, I expect I may need to find cars frequently for several friends in coastal communities if the ferry schedule goes through as intended.

I am writing because all of us in this state are connected. We all share in the cost of the roads, whether or not we use them. Through federal taxes, friends of mine that will never see Alaska also help pay for our roads. The Marine **Highway System** is just that, another highway, public infrastructure for public good that we all pay for whether we use it or not. I have used it less than I would like, simply because the schedule is not consistent, making it difficult to plan months in advance.

I am particularly concerned that Cordova could lose ferry service for **eight months**, from mid September to mid May. This will kill businesses in a community that has over and over pulled itself up by the bootstraps. Grocery stores, lumber yards, hardware stores, motels will all take a massive hit and certainly they will turn to **out of state** solutions, bringing materials up from the Lower 48 and bypassing Anchorage/Fairbanks/Valdez/Whittier altogether as much as possible. Once those lines of service are established, why would businesses return to getting supplies from Anchorage for the 4 months the ferry is in service? What this will likely do is cause substantial disruption in both coastal **and mainland** businesses.

The **Marine Highway** system is a highway of goods and services. Amazingly, and unlike the Glenn, Parks, or Richardson, it even pays for itself; according to the McDowell group the state gets \$2 in return for every \$1 invested.

There is little in the proposed ferry schedule, limiting service to Cordova to only the few months when fishermen are crowding in and out of town, that makes sense.

There have been good studies on the Marine Highway system, done by McDowell and the Elliott Bay Group. There are smart people running businesses in coastal communities that could work with the state to come to reasonable solutions for all.

First, return year-round, or nearly year-round service to Cordova and other coastal communities. Second, make long term plans and economic investments that ensure **stable schedules**. Third, in your role as members of the Alaska State House, it is past time to consider re-instating the income tax we used to have. That's called personal responsibility. Folks like me who make decent money should be helping to pay for exactly these types of public good services.

Thank you,

Kendra Zamzow
Chickaloon, Alaska 99674
907.354.3886



Sent with [ProtonMail](#) Secure Email.

From: [christine tiedeman](#)
To: [House Transportation](#)
Subject: Comments on 2019-2020 Winter Schedule
Date: Monday, July 29, 2019 12:58:44 PM

To whom it may concern my husband and I traveled the day the ferry employees went on strike had I know it was taking place we would not have driven .So the truck my husband and I use to pull our boat in and out of the water for commercial fishing is stuck in anchorage and we just hope its not vandalized while we wait and hope to get it home before may15th.I would say 90% of Cordovans use the marine highway to travel to anchorage yearly mostly in fall and winter months to get provisions,supplies,school stuff and the likes.shutting it down for 8 months will be a huge blow to our already stressed economy.



EYAK

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July 29, 2019

To: Alaska House of Representatives Transportation Committee
Re: Eight Month Gap in Cordova Marine Highway Ferry Service

The Eyak Preservation Council is submitting this comment regarding this gap in marine ferry service to Cordova, Alaska.

Eyak Preservation Council is a public charity with 501(c)(3) status based in Cordova, Alaska whose mission is *to preserve, restore and celebrate wild salmon culture and habitat through education, awareness and promotion of sustainable livelihoods within the communities of the Copper River and Prince William Sound watersheds of Alaska.* Eyak Preservation Council offers educational and outreach programs that concentrate on the regional salmon way of life, indigenous cultural preservation and the promotion of sustainable economies. We represent the communities and people of the Copper River and Prince William Sound and have program participants from this region and from the nation at large.

A gap in the Alaska Marine Highway ferry service in Cordova from September to April is life threatening to the health of our community and dangerous to Cordova's existence. This community depends on the ferry service as a lifeline. This service supports business, fishing, education, supplies, communication needs – the loss of the ferry will touch EVERY ASPECT of this community. In winter months, it could be dangerous and life threatening not to have affordable and weekly ferry service. This action of no ferry service by virtue of the Governor and the Alaska Representatives that did not vote against this cut will be held responsible.

Hopefully, you are receiving possibly thousands of comments. We pray that you do the right thing, listen to Alaska's coastal residents who rely on the ferry service, change this proposition, and save businesses, regional economies, activities, educational opportunities, our youth sports and lives.

Best Regards,

Carol Hoover
Executive Director

cc: DL, DG

From: [Sheryl and David Glasen](#)
To: [House Transportation](#)
Subject: Comments on AMHS Winter Schedule
Date: Monday, July 29, 2019 1:31:57 PM

I am writing in regards to the proposed Marine Highway winter schedule and how it will impact Cordova. I am a lifelong resident of Cordova and know that this will cause many negative repercussions. As a bed and breakfast owner, I have already seen two cancellations that were directly associated with the absolute lack of winter ferry service. These two cancellations will impact my household income substantially. In addition, I am having ongoing medical visits to Anchorage after falling and breaking my back this spring. Having no ferry service has changed my travel plans and made it less affordable which in result has made me schedule my follow ups further apart than medically recommended. My truck is currently stuck up there following last week's strike and cancellation of ferry service. This past week has just given us a glimpse of what this winter will be like. I am not sure at what point our state has stopped placing importance on our coastal communities but its sad where we are currently at politically. Our "highway" is vital to us for transportation of goods, travel, medical care, student activities participation, and so many other things.

Thank you for considering these impacts as you go forward with hopefully making changes to this schedule.

Concerned Cordovan,

Sheryl Glasen

From: [Chinook Auto Rentals](#)
To: [House Transportation](#)
Subject: Comments on 2019-2020 Winter Schedule
Date: Monday, July 29, 2019 1:36:37 PM

As you can see in the address below, I have a car rental in Cordova. In fact it is the ONLY car rental in Cordova. We are heavily dependent on the ferry to transport our vehicles to Anchorage for Body work, Front End Alignments, Windshields, Warranty Work, Air Bag Replacements and any number of services not available here in Cordova. I have 45 vehicle in the fleet and about 1/4 of them head to Anchorage every year so we can properly maintain them.

Frankly, I have NO IDEA how to overcome this huge barrier your proposed schedule or rather this NON-SCHEDULE has laid at my door. We do most of these repairs in the off season between October to May because we're too busy to do it the Summer months.

This total lack of Service is not just inconvenient - it is a harsh, unwarranted action that will put the nails on the coffin for many small businesses already struggling to survive the winter months. Dumbleavy didn't buy my vote with his promise of a \$3,000 permanent fund. I'd rather have a scheduled ferry this winter and I know there can be changes made that would include a boat stopping in our community. Please do not stumble around and act like this is a necessary burden for only Cordovan's to endure. Somehow we Survive, but it's so much better to Thrive so help us and others who use the Ferry do just that.

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[Chinook Auto Rentals](#)
Cordova Airport
PO Box 1564
Cordova, AK 99574
907-424-5279
chinookautorentals@gmail.com
www.chinookautorentals.com

From: [Katie Stone](#)
To: [House Transportation](#)
Subject: AMHS CORDOVA
Date: Monday, July 29, 2019 3:25:21 PM

To whom it may concern:

As residents and business owners here in Cordova losing our ferry for eight months will be devastating to our community. Please consider even a minimal schedule for the winter or at least not such a long gap. We own a food truck here in Cordova and make multiple trips a year on the ferry for supplies in Anchorage. Our business is also dependent on the fishermen and the families that join them here. Commercial fishing goes until the end of September. Cutting ferry service [the 12th of September](#) will impact how long they will be able to fish due to having to catch the ferry before the season is over. April and May is are important months for commercial fisherman to come and prepare for their fishing season which generally starts around May 15th. There's a laundry list of how service cancelation will impact Cordova but the bulk, in my opinion, is how it'll affect our fishing community which in turn affects all business in Cordova.

Please take into consideration the comments being submitted. Rural Alaska is depending on you.

Thank you,

Katie Stone and Ted Velasco

Sent from my iPhone

July 27, 2019

I live at 402 Adams Ave. here in Cordova.

Hi, I'm Keila Gonzalez.^ I want to say today that I'm SO thankful for the ferry service that Cordova has had because during my Jr. High and High School years, I was in band and played on the basketball team.

I was usually just on the JV team, but the ferry service made it possible for ALL of us to travel sometimes. And I got to go to Music Festival. It was a great experience. I LOVE being included!!!

For the last 8 years, the ferry service has also made it possible for a friend and I to attend Special Olympics Camp Shriver for 2 weeks in July in Anchorage. Plane tickets for us and 2 caregivers, and summer car rental would be TOO expensive. We have a wonderful time at Camp Shriver every year. I am very grateful for this experience.

Please continue to include ALL of us! Thank you.

Cliff Ward
204 1st St.
P.O. Box 264
Cordova, 99574

7/27/19

Re: Cutting Cordova out of winter ferry service completely ++.

To whom it may concern:

Seems to be a common thread/Theme in government recently;

Gut public service w/no Plan B...

[End 'Obamacare' without anything to replace it with, End or drastically cut out public programs vital to kids, women, Alaska Natives, the less-fortunate, the elderly, Veterans, and others. in this state (and country). And in this case, ABANDONING CORDOVA TO FEND FOR ITSELF THRU THE WINTER w/o AK Marine Hwy system to access the other parts of South Central...w/NO PLAN B? NO PLAN B! JUST ABANDON US?] That while slashing the budget at the behest of an 'outside' consultant the governor has as his hired hatchet...someone not even familiar w/ Alaska, it's people, cultures, challenges, and spirit.

All THIS while \$1.2 Billion in tax breaks is given to Multi-national oil corporations? Are international corporations and others outside the state calling the shots of who gets what in this state? Who is this governor actually working for?

And NOW with the IBU on STRIKE? SETTLE CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS NOW!, what, after 3 years kicking the can down the road?

DON'T ABANDON CORDOVA AND KODIAK AND ALL THE OTHER COASTAL COMMUNITIES that depend of the Marine Hwy System as part of their community's economic engine, a medical life-line to those who depend on it for health services, school kids and families to enrich their education, etc., etc.

What is this, RULE BY TYRANNY? You know what the framers of the constitution said about THAT, right?

Sincerely,



Cliff Ward 
35 year Cordova resident

From: [Bears Den Cabins](#)
To: [House Transportation](#)
Subject: Comments on 2019-2020 Winter Schedule
Date: Tuesday, July 30, 2019 1:31:28 PM

We Have the Bears Den Cabins here is Cordova . WE make several supply trips to Anchorage each year . Most of our guests who come to stay here in our cabins in May June and July come in on the ferry . We have had 4 cancellations this past week due to the Strike . Lack of Ferry services for Cordova is hard on every one . The School , ALL Businesses, and Families .. even the hospital services . There must be a solution . There must be Real and TRUE consideration for all the communities in Alaska affected by this inconceivable and detrimental Situation . Alaska is better than this ...

Most Sincerely , Robin Jensen

From: [Joy Rawlins](#)
To: [House Transportation](#)
Subject: AMHS
Date: Thursday, August 1, 2019 12:50:18 PM

To Whom it May Concern:

The ferry in Prince William Sound is our lifeline to the rest of Alaska. Cordova, Chenega and Tatitlik have no road access and flying is not convenient to bringing supplies to our towns. The ferry system has been quite adequate for many years. It is essential that the ferry be home ported in Cordova. The ferry workers have lived here and made home here. Bring the Aurora back as soon as it has finished it's yearly overhaul. Ferry service on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from Cordova to Whittier, and occasionally to Valdez when there are special events for the school kids. Valdez has a road and not much need for a ferry several times a week.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Joy Rawlins

P O Box 454

Cordova, AK 99574