

CITY OF UNALASKA
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January 13, 2020

Alaska State Legislators
State Capital
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Governor, State Legislators, and Staff:

The City of Unalaska offers our support for Alaska's Ferry System. Community members have long identified ferry service as community priority. Unalaska's Comprehensive Plan calls on residents and Council to advocate for consistent ferry service. Unalaska's City Council has identified support for Alaska's Ferry System as a key legislative priority and of the upmost importance to our community.

Our island community depends on ferry service and air service to meet the numerous travel needs of residents, businesses, and visitors. Unalaska is 50 miles from the Great Circle route and 800 miles southwest of Anchorage. There is simple no other way to access our island.

The need for consistent transportation options, such as consistent ferry service, has been highlighted during the aftermath of the deadly plane crash where a Saab 2000 ran off our airport's runway. We are experiencing lasting challenges with commercial passenger air service. Only one passenger air carrier provides direct flights between Unalaska and Anchorage, and on only one type of aircraft. Travel disruptions create significant risk and costs to the residents and the businesses of Unalaska.

Transportation choices are vital for communities to be successful and sustainable. The ferry provides this transportation alternative for Unalaska and its citizens. Yes, Alaska's Ferry System provides a tourism opportunity for our community. But, perhaps more importantly, Alaska's Ferry System provides a cost-effective way for community members and business to travel and ship goods and materials.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "ERIN REINDERS".

Erin Reinders, City Manager