

## Joe G. Hardenbrook

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**From:** Eric Gucker <ericgucker@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 16, 2021 12:18 PM  
**To:** House Transportation  
**Subject:** HB 63

I recently retired after over 33 years with the AMHS. During that time I watched the steady decline of our ferry system. DOT and AMHS mismanagement are largely to blame but so too have our rotating Governors and Legislators. To my knowledge not one of the suggestions made to improve the system by the Southeast Conference or the Marine Transportation Advisory Board were followed.

If this proposed AMHS operating board can take the politics out of the government's obligation to provide this essential state service then I support it. However this still disregards crucial input from passengers and crew.

It is time to give power to the people of the state of Alaska who own this system and want it to succeed and thrive. The current way of doing things has lead to the systematic and calculated destruction of our ferry service which is not even meeting minimal service levels. To say it is on life support would be putting it kindly.

And it's not about money or lack there of. This trend was happening before the price of oil dropped or the pandemic hit. Why is there only a re-shaping group study for the AMHS and not every state service department? Why should ferry service be held to a different standard than any other department? If all state departments had to be self sustaining then they would all be gone tomorrow and there would be no need for state government.

Respectfully,  
Eric Gucker  
Ketchikan, AK

Sent from my iPhone