

From: Malena Marvin
Sent: Monday, March 29, 2021 10:37 AM
To: House State Affairs
Subject: Please support HB 63

Greetings members of our Alaska House State Affairs Committee,

I heartily urge you to support HB 63.

Diversity is the spice of life and also makes for a good public board, therefore I am in favor of the provision in which a portion of seats of this Operations Board would be appointed by the legislature, not just the governor.

In addition to ensuring the board is representative of our diverse coastal communities, this provision differentiates HB 63 from Governor Dunleavy's AMHS bill in an important way: it buttresses the new board against changes in the political winds as governors come and go. Keeping our eye on the prize and maintaining consistent planning is crucial to a successful next generation of AMHS.

Alaskans are too busy with fishing and camping to spend their time in board meetings flapping their gums just for fun, so I also appreciate how HB 63 directs the DOT Commissioner to incorporate the recommendations of the Operations Board into long term departmental planning. This further stabilizes AMHS and ensures that we won't reverse course with each political appointee. To succeed, the Operations Board must be able to shape long term planning, not just yak about it.

While I don't agree with how the current Governor has managed AMHS, he has highlighted the unfortunate fact that under current statute, a single politician has the ability to unilaterally "sink the ship" without ever having ridden it. That is not in keeping with the kind of locally-driven policy-making this governor values, and most Alaskans agree should be a hallmark of our society.

I would love to see us work with our DC delegation to invest in an innovative, climate-friendly fleet for the coming half-century. Our old girls did us proud, but I dare to believe that our Blue Canoes 2.0 will do us prouder.

As a small business owner and fishing family in Petersburg, I ask that you do right by our community's kids, sports teams, local businesses, visitors, and people seeking medical care: we need an affordable and dependable marine highway in coastal Alaska. Our community does our part to harvest the waters and keep our waterfront working. We need you to do your part, and help keep our waterfronts connected. Transportation has long been the lynchpin of economic opportunity and trade. Let's move HB 63 and keep it that way around here.

Thanks so much,
Malena Marvin
Schoolhouse Fish Co.
PO Box 1611
Petersburg, Alaska
(907) 957 1007

From: Eric Petersen
Sent: Monday, March 29, 2021 11:07 AM
To: House State Affairs <HouseState.Affairs@akleg.gov>
Subject: I Support HB 63

Hello,

I want to voice my support for HB 63 pertaining to Alaska Ferry operations. I think it is important that the AK legislature has power in appointing seats to the Alaska Ferry Board, and that the office of the governor is not given unilateral power over said appointments.

Thank you,
Eric Petersen
UAF Postdoctoral Researcher

From: Chalise Fisk
Sent: Monday, March 29, 2021 11:34 AM
To: House State Affairs
Subject: HB 63

Hello,

As a resident of Southeast Alaska and someone who has utilized the Alaska Marine Highway systems for years and who stands in support of state staff employed by AMHS I want to explicitly share my support of HB 63.

Chalise
Juneau, AK
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Sent from iPhone

From: Marja Smets
Sent: Monday, March 29, 2021 11:38 AM
To: House State Affairs
Subject: HB 63

To whom it may concern:

I am writing in support of HB 63. It is important to maintain diversity on a public board, therefore the legislature should be able to appoint seats along with the governor to the Operations Board.

I agree with my good friend Malena when she states:

"I would love to see us work with our DC delegation to invest in an innovative, climate-friendly fleet for the coming half-century. Our old girls did us proud, but I dare to believe that our Blue Canoes 2.0 will do us prouder.

As a small business owner and fishing family in Petersburg, I ask that you do right by our community's kids, sports teams, local businesses, visitors, and people seeking medical care: we need an affordable and dependable marine highway in coastal Alaska. Our community does our part to harvest the waters and keep our waterfront working. We need you to do your part, and help keep our waterfronts connected. Transportation has long been the lynchpin of economic opportunity and trade."

Please vote to move forward HB 63. Thank you for your time and service!

Sincerely,
Marja Smets
Farragut Farm
PO Box 1714
Petersburg, Alaska 99833

From: summer j andersen
Sent: Monday, March 29, 2021 12:16 PM
To: House State Affairs
Subject: In support of HB 63

I support fully funding and expanding ferry service.

I live in Haines and am currently stuck in Juneau as my ferry has been delayed by a full week. It is a huge burden on my families finances to pay for lodging and food while we wait for the ferry home.

Please help SE Alaska grow and thrive.

Summer Andersen
PO Box 1378
Haines AK. 99827
