

From: JoMarie Alba
Sent: Tuesday, March 30, 2021 9:28 AM
To: House State Affairs
Subject: Supporting HB 63

I am writing I support of HB 63, the AK Marine Highway Operations Board.

From: John Perreault
Sent: Monday, March 29, 2021 7:38 PM
To: House State Affairs
Subject: HB 63

Dear Reps of the State Affairs Committee,

It is my opinion that a board built to serve the interests of so many Alaskans and the economic interests of yet more Alaskans should not be under the sole control of one Alaskan, be they a member of your party or not. Please keep some seats on the MTAB/AMHOB appointed by the legislature. Thank you.

-John Perreault

P.S. The Ferries should also be funded so that there is something to oversee in the interests of Alaskans.

From: M Miller
Sent: Monday, March 29, 2021 7:02 PM
To: House State Affairs
Subject: In support HB 63

Hello,

I am a constituent from Kodiak. I am writing in support of Representative Stutes' HB 63. The legislature needs to have a say in appointees to the new Alaska Marine Highway Operations Board. Governor Dunleavy has repeatedly shown his disregard for the AMHS by cutting funding and services despite the essential role AMHS plays in our coastal communities. I do not trust the governor to adequately represent the interests of coastal Alaska in his selections for the new operations board.

Additionally it is important that the new operations board have the ability to implement their planning. HB 63 does that. The Governor's proposal does not.

Thank you and Sincerely,

M. C. Miller

From: Carrie Nash
Sent: Monday, March 29, 2021 6:37 PM
To: House State Affairs
Subject: House Bill 63

I am writing in support of House Bill 63. It is necessary and important to the whole state. The governor's bill would be disastrous. Please support House Bill 63.

Thank you,

Carrie Nash

Fairbanks, AK

From: Joey Tillson
Sent: Monday, March 29, 2021 6:08 PM
To: House State Affairs
Subject: AMHS needs long-term leadership

My name is Joey Tillson and I live in Southeast Alaska. I have grown up on the Alaska Marine highway between Ketchikan Alaska and Juneau Alaska. Members of the coastal communities continuously need our ferry system as our highway. For the last decade we have been played with as some sort of tug-of-war game with the state administration and the legislature. Community members are constantly held hostage for basic needs to survive. Simple items of food, healthcare, clothing, basic necessities to survive have been held hostage based on political arguments and theft of services by this administration. We need to take the power away from the governor and put it back in the legislature and focus on the long-term goals of our water highway.

There used to be a time when our ferry system thrived. We were not on the chopping block every year. We need to focus on higher ridership and bring back the transportation funds Southeast Alaska and other coastal communities need. If you plan on cutting the budget for the highways on the water road then you may as well cut the highways in the interior. Coastal Alaskans are treated like some sort of abused and neglected children. We are constantly having to beg at the mercy of Anchorage. We are all Alaskans. There are other Alaskans living in the state besides Anchorage. When are we going to start taking care of all of the Alaskans in this state? We need long-term decision making not one that changes hands every time we get a new administration. We need to change. If you do what you've always done you're going to get what you've always gotten.

Please take the power away from the Governor and put it into a long term conservatorship that will plan and rebuild this AMHS. One that will not be at the mercy of changing political Gods. Enough is enough. Coastal Alaskans deserve equality and they deserve to survive. Don't let us sink.

Ms. Joey Tillson

From: Pat Race
Sent: Monday, March 29, 2021 5:54 PM
To: House State Affairs
Subject: HB 63

To the committee,

I write in support of HB 63 which creates a longer term strategy for the Alaska Marine Highway. The AMHS is an essential state service and provides a lifeline to many coastal and interior communities.

I hope the new board will investigate electrification of the fleet and/or strategic hydro-powered hydrogen filling stations which could inexpensively and sustainably fuel the fleet for many years to come and reduce our reliance on carbon burning fossil fuels shipped in from outside the state.

Pat Race,

Juneau

From: erika merklin
Sent: Monday, March 29, 2021 5:40 PM
To: House State Affairs
Subject: Long Term Ferry Planning

Please, please, please prioritize a pragmatic long range strategy for the Alaska Marine Highway System. I live in Haines and have relied on the ferry for the past 25 years. In just the last five years the ferry has become completely unreliable and the prices have sky rocketed. My business has suffered from this unreliability so much that I can not remain in business. AMHS is foundational to Southeast Alaskans and our communities have suffered greatly with the neglect of the fleet.

Please increase the budget for repairs, purchase of suitable ferries that can be utilized year round, with crew quarters.

Thank you,

Erika Merklin

Haines, Alaska