

**From:** donna snyder  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 30, 2021 10:51 AM  
**To:** House State Affairs  
**Subject:** Support ferry service in upper Lynn Canal and everywhere!

Please support our ferries in the entire state of AK. Long range planning and infrastructure is much needed.

I am currently traveling with a heart patient and am writing from Seattle. We had to leave Skagway 5 days early due to weather closing in over the upcoming days and the cancellation of a much needed Tuesday ferry that we had planned for. The cancellation of that ferry with no backup boats in sight was a hardship for many travelers. Families were returning from spring break with a lot of kids relying on it to get to school in the next week and we were reliant on it for important medical travel.

Ferry travel has been the only reliable travel for years and will be in the future if preplanning is accomplished.

Thanks for your efforts...please think ahead!

Donna Griffard  
Skagway Resident

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**From:** Nancy Berg  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 30, 2021 1:50 PM  
**To:** House State Affairs  
**Subject:** HB 63

To the members of the House State Affairs Committee.

I am writing in support of HB 63 which sets up a board to do short and long range planning for the Alaska marine Highway. It is important that we get the planning out of the present management and do some forward thinking and planning to keep the vessels up and running , in good condition , and serving the needs of the coastal communities of Alaska . Just by looking at the amount of money that has been wasted by buying the wrong type of vessels and then selling them for pennies on the dollar is just one example of planning by politics and over administrations with different goals. I will be following this and would appreciate an email when you will be allowing public testimony

Nancy Berg  
Viking Travel Inc.

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**From:** Kristine Harder  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 30, 2021 2:59 PM  
**To:** House State Affairs  
**Subject:** HB 63

I am writing to urge you to pass House Bill 63. For far too many years the lack of planning for the AMHS has had long far reaching disastrous effects on those of us dependent upon us as our "Highway". Ships built with crew quarters, then spending money on the same ships to eliminate crew quarters, ships without doors on the right side for disembarking. The list goes on and on. We need long range planning that doesn't change on the whims of a new administration. HB 63 is a step in the right direction.

Kristine Harder  
P.O. Box 136  
Haines, AK 99827

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**From:** Daniel Green  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 30, 2021 6:29 PM  
**To:** House State Affairs <HouseState.Affairs@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** I support HB63

Good evening.

My name is Daniel Green  
Po box 210273  
Auke bay, ak 99821

I am writing in support of HB63. I do not think the governor should have the power to appoint all 10 seats of the Operations Board for ferries.

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Donna Griffard

Skagway Resident

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**From:** Rex Gist  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 30, 2021 8:57 PM  
**To:** House State Affairs  
**Subject:** HB 63 is a must

Dear House State Affairs Committee Members,

Please support HB 63. Our state needs a balanced board that is not to be pressured by a Governor who only cares about the part of Alaska that is on the road system.

Your jobs are to represent your districts while doing the best you can for the people of the State of Alaska. If you don't think this bill relates to your constituents, you're most likely mistaken. As someone who has lived in Anchorage and Fairbanks I used the ferry system a few times when living there. If it's reasonably run, Alaskans can plan to use the ferry for vacations and that doesn't even speak to the people in southeast who the service is critical to.

Your support for common sense planning for our ferry service is important. Thank you for your consideration.

Rex Gist  
Douglas, Alaska

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**From:** bo <writebo@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 31, 2021 9:27 AM  
**To:** House State Affairs <HouseState.Affairs@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** HB 63

Alaska House State Affairs Committee

I strongly urge you to support HB 63.

Diversity 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.

I approve of 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.

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. We need a fleet that reflects the changing environmental imperatives that the country and the world now face. We need a fleet of more numerous but smaller boats that are fuel efficient and adaptable.

As a small business owner 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.

Daniel Varsano  
Box 1714  
Petersburg, AK  
99833

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From: rob berney  
Sent: Thursday, April 1, 2021 9:13 PM  
To: House State Affairs  
Subject: AK Marine Highway testimony

So saddened at state of Alaska marine highway. I grew up taking family fishing trips nearly every year in family motor home via the marine highway during the 80s and early 90's. We as a family would ride these fabulous vessels on round trip tickets from Bellingham to all different ports in southeast and mainland Alaska. These memories stand out as much as anything about those trips as we cherished our time on these voyages.

As a result of these memories I as a young adult over 20 years ago accepted a position with the USFS as a career seasonal. One of the best things about my job is I get four months off during the winter in which I return to the lower 48 to be with family. With the exception of the last two years I have

consecutively purchased tickets for myself, vehicle-and rode the ferries in the spring and fall those 20 plus years. I have also been blessed enough to include my young daughter in several of those trips and she as I did fell in love with the trip and big boats.

Sadly after having to barge my vehicle last year in the spring due to the entire fleet being down to mechanical issues and again this spring after more breakdowns I decided I could get by without bringing a vehicle up to Alaska via the Marine highway in-fact I could just buy a used vehicle in Alaska and fly back and forth for a fraction of the price it now costs to purchase round trip tickets for myself and vehicle.

In the last 20 plus consecutive years I have rode the marine highway I have watched the prices go from \$700 to over \$3000 for round trips (no cabin) Ketchikan-Bellingham. I have watched the services on boats dwindle down to barebones- hardly there. Have witnessed the crews go from happy, warm, engaging, caring people with great careers to disgruntled, cold, unenthusiastic, zombies rarely available. I have watched a vigorous fleet of boats with so many available routes and options to choose from as a way to see beautiful southeast Alaska dwindle down to a ghost fleet that is probably 90% broken down or sitting idle due to other reasons at any given time.

I've heard one of the main reasons for letting this happen to our once great fleet is lack of riders and funds. One of the reasons I always chose the ferry up vs flying or driving was affordability. I can no longer afford to bring my vehicle and I can fly to Seattle for less than half what it costs for a walk on ticket. I wouldn't even dream of a cabin booking which adds well over a hundred per night. This is not realistic for anyone. Who has to work for a living.

I really hope my days of riding the Great Alaskan Marine Highway have not come to an end but I fear otherwise. Please go back to offering affordable, dependable service or give the fleet up to a private source who can give it a try.

I don't believe the ferry system was ever designed to make a big profit or operate without subsidies. Pricing out riders is only making things worse.

Sincerely Robert Berney

Sent from my iPhone