

**From:** Jai Crapella  
**Sent:** Friday, April 9, 2021 7:37 PM  
**To:** House State Affairs <HouseState.Affairs@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** I Support HB 63

Dear Committee Member,

I'm writing from Gustavus to SUPPORT HB 63.

I would like to see a new AMHS Operations Board have appointments from the legislature, not just the governor.

I would also like to see this Board's recommendations implemented by Alaska DOT, as called for by HB 63.

SB 103 does not meet our needs for representative and meaningful leadership for AMHS.

I support a fully funded and expanded AMHS to keep our economies moving and our communities healthy and strong.

Thank you,  
Jai Joanne Crapella  
Gustavus, AK

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**From:** Kelin Hickey  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 8, 2021 11:12 PM  
**To:** House State Affairs <HouseState.Affairs@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** I support HB 63

Dear committee member,

I am writing to you in regards of **HB 63**, which as an Alaskan, am in STRONG support of. Having a board composed of members from across the state is a much better representative of the collective needs of the AMHS operations. I would like to see this Board's recommendations implemented by DOT, as their personal insight is invaluable to how this system works. SB 103 would not represent the ever changing needs that this system needs to function properly. The decision making so far that I have seen has been disastrous and money-wasting with no long term planning involved, and which recent budget cuts has sunk the system as a whole, making it almost obsolete. In the big picture, AMHS is obviously integral to SE AK and to outlying towns in Prince William Sound and out to Kodiak, it brings up a great amount of commerce from tourists coming from the lower 48 through the Bellingham Terminal. Heavy machinery, RV's, and transporting personnel for Military or Civil services to name a few.

There have been many rational recommendations from AMHS ship personnel, ferry terminal personnel, and the communities they service in the past, in ways to create a more streamlined service, that have all fallen on deaf ears. First, having the funding to be able to fund ongoing maintenance on these aging vessels is imperative, to allow the vessels to maintain consistent sailing schedules. If the system cannot be relied upon for planning purposes, it will get an obvious decrease in ridership and steady revenue stream. Secondly, a current strategy of charging the current passenger base MORE to recover from loss of ridership shifts the blame and cost to the

wrong people. With HB 63, a collective group of insightful people personally involved day to day would allow for better decision making in both short and long term planning for our essential state ferry system

I support a fully funded and expanded AMHS to keep our economies moving.

Thank you,  
Kelin Hickey

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**From:** Penelope Oswald  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 8, 2021 10:50 AM  
**To:** House State Affairs <HouseState.Affairs@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** I Support HB 63

Dear Committee Member,

My name is Penelope Oswald Stimson  
Cordova, Alaska

I'm writing to strongly SUPPORT HB 63.

I would like to see a new AMHS Operations Board have appointments from the legislature, not just the governor. I would also like to see this Board's recommendations implemented by Alaska DOT, as called for by HB 63. SB 103 does not meet our needs for representative and meaningful leadership for AMHS. I support a fully funded and expanded AMHS to keep our economies moving. Our ferries are critical to our community. We need long term planning to utilize our ferries to help our communities economies!

Thank you,  
Penelope Oswald Stimson

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**From:** Debbie Hemenway  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 8, 2021 8:07 AM  
**To:** House State Affairs <HouseState.Affairs@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** I support HB63

Dear Committee Member,

I'm writing from Gustavus to SUPPORT HB 63.

I would like to see a new AMHS Operations Board have appointments from the legislature, not just the governor. I would also like to see this Board's recommendations implemented by Alaska DOT, as called for by HB 63. SB 103 does not meet our needs for representative and meaningful leadership for AMHS. I support a fully funded and expanded AMHS to keep our economies moving.

Thank you,

Debbie Hemenway  
Gustavus, Alaska 99826

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**From:** Jonathan Wood  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 8, 2021 7:32 AM  
**To:** House State Affairs <HouseState.Affairs@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** I Support HB 63

Dear Committee Member,

I'm writing from Juneau to strongly SUPPORT HB 63.

I would like to see a new AMHS Operations Board have appointments from the legislature, not just the governor. I would also like to see this Board's recommendations implemented by Alaska DOT, as called for by HB 63. SB 103 does not meet our needs for representative and meaningful leadership for AMHS. I support a fully funded and expanded AMHS to keep our economies moving.

Thank you,  
Jonathan Wood

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**From:** Larry Platt  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 7, 2021 11:42 PM  
**To:** House State Affairs <HouseState.Affairs@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Support HB 63

To: [housestate.affairs@akleg.gov](mailto:housestate.affairs@akleg.gov)  
Subject: I Support HB 63

Dear Committee Member,

I'm writing from Gustavus Alaska to SUPPORT HB 63.

I would like to see a new AMHS Operations Board have appointments from the legislature, not just the governor. I would also like to see this Board's recommendations implemented by Alaska DOT, as called for by HB 63. SB 103 does not meet our needs for representative and meaningful leadership for AMHS. I support a fully funded and expanded AMHS to keep our economies moving.

Thank you,  
Larry Platt  
Gustavus resident

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From: Gail  
Sent: Wednesday, April 7, 2021 1:02 PM

To: House State Affairs <HouseState.Affairs@akleg.gov>  
Subject: Support HB 63

Dear Committee Member,

Please SUPPORT HB 63.

A new AMHS Operations Board needs to have appointments from the legislature, not just the governor, if it is to represent the people. This Board's recommendations need to be implemented by Alaska DOT, as called for by HB 63. SB 103 does not meet our needs for representative and meaningful leadership for AMHS. We need a fully funded and expanded AMHS to keep our economies moving. It is a part of our road system and fully as important.

Thank you,

Gail Davidson  
Fairbanks, AK

Peace to All.

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**From:** Meredith R. Pochardt  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 7, 2021 12:30 PM  
**To:** House State Affairs <HouseState.Affairs@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** I Support HB 63

Dear Committee Member,

I'm writing from Haines to SUPPORT HB 63.

I would like to see a new AMHS Operations Board have appointments from the legislature, not just the governor. I would also like to see this Board's recommendations implemented by Alaska DOT, as called for by HB 63. SB 103 does not meet our needs for representative and meaningful leadership for AMHS. I support a fully funded and expanded AMHS to keep our economies moving.

Thank you,  
Meredith Pochardt

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**From:** Byron Whitesides  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 7, 2021 12:19 PM  
**To:** House State Affairs <HouseState.Affairs@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** I Support HB 63  
**Importance:** High

Dear Committee Member,

I'm writing from KETCHIKAN to SUPPORT HB 63.

I would like to see a new AMHS Operations Board have appointments from the legislature, not just the governor. I would also like to see this Board's recommendations implemented by Alaska DOT, as called for by HB 63. SB 103 does not meet our needs for representative and meaningful leadership for AMHS. I support a fully funded and expanded AMHS to keep our economies moving. A viable and healthy AMHS is ESSENTIAL TRANSPORTATION for the communities serviced by this highway, and the present management has ignored a multitude of suggestions from community members to improve this system, and has deliberately run it into the ground with their terrible management and need to be FIRED and replaced with a much reduced administration with a 180 degree different attitude, who will work with the members of the coastal communities who rely on this highway for access to our mainland highway system that our monies also support but have no access to. This should be the first step of this new board of directors, to get rid of this unacceptable and terrible management of our marine highway system. It is this MANAGEMENT who has destroyed this once thriving marine highway system, and driven the customers off because of the implementation of their wrong headed and misguided ideas, and who just won't admit THEY and these ideas were wrong and the reason this ALASKA MARINE HIGHWAY SYSTEM has been put into such bad shape!

Thank you,  
Byron Whitesides  
72 year resident of Ketchikan Alaska

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From: CP W  
Sent: Wednesday, April 7, 2021 10:44 AM  
To: House State Affairs <HouseState.Affairs@akleg.gov>  
Subject: I support HB 63

Dear Committee Member,

I'm writing from Ketchikan to SUPPORT HB 63.

I would like to see a new AMHS Operations Board have appointments from the legislature, not just the governor. I would also like to see this Board's recommendations implemented by Alaska DOT, as called for by HB 63. SB 103 does not meet our needs for representative and meaningful leadership for AMHS. I support a fully funded and expanded AMHS to keep our economies moving.

Thank you,  
Catherine Goodwin  
Ketchikan Alaska 99901

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**From:** Bill Glude  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 7, 2021 10:11 AM  
**To:** House State Affairs <HouseState.Affairs@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** In support of HB 63

Dear Committee Member,

I am writing from Skagway, where we have been lucky this winter if the one ill-maintained ferry we are supposed to get every week is actually running. Our tourism is dying, and we are doing all we can to attract vaccinated independent travelers this year, but the ferry system, which we should be expanding and promoting this year to keep our economies from crashing, is dying of neglect, leaving us with no alternative to even more costly air travel to get visitors here.

Because of this, I am supporting HB 63.

The AMHS Operations Board needs appointees from the Legislature, not just the Governor. Time and time again, Governors have politicized what should be a basic government function, to the detriment of the service. The board's recommendations should also be binding on DOT, as is called for in HB 63.

SB 103, on the other hand, is the wrong approach. We need representative leadership for AMHS, and it needs stability, customer and staff representation, and long-range planning.

Please fully fund and expand our ferry system; Coastal Alaska is in dual crisis from the combined effects of the pandemic and the dying ferry system. Reviving the ferry system could be a key to reviving our economies, if we would have the courage to act that the founders of the system did in the 1960s, when we were a much poorer state than we are now.

Thank you  
Bill Glude  
Juneau, AK 99802 USA

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**From:** Brenda Campen  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 6, 2021 2:42 PM  
**To:** Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins <[Rep.Jonathan.Kreiss-Tomkins@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Jonathan.Kreiss-Tomkins@akleg.gov)>; Rep. Matt Claman <[Rep.Matt.Claman@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Matt.Claman@akleg.gov)>; Rep. Geran Tarr <[Rep.Geran.Tarr@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Geran.Tarr@akleg.gov)>; Rep. Andi Story <[Rep.Andi.Story@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Andi.Story@akleg.gov)>; [Representtive.Sarah.Vance@akleg.gov](mailto:Representtive.Sarah.Vance@akleg.gov); Rep. James Kaufman <[Rep.James.Kaufman@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.James.Kaufman@akleg.gov)>; [Representtive.David.Eastman@akleg.gov](mailto:Representtive.David.Eastman@akleg.gov)  
**Cc:** Rep. Louise Stutes <[Rep.Louise.Stutes@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Louise.Stutes@akleg.gov)>  
**Subject:** HB 63

To the House State Affairs Committee:

I am aware that you are holding a committee meeting today at 3pm. I would like to lend my support for HB 63 as an improvement over SB 103, the governor's proposal.

As a Sitka with over 40 years of history riding the AMHS, I am very invested in the future of this vital piece of the Alaska infrastructure. I am a stakeholder, as are all coast residents, and actually, as are all Alaskans whether they are aware of it or not.

I don't have to tell you about the state of the AMHS, or, I should not have to. Actually, I have not been able to use the ferry to travel from Sitka to various other SE AK ports for the last few years due to an unrealistic,

impractical schedule. Over the last couple of years, the cost for ferry travel has also been a serious obstacle for many residents.

AMHS needs an operations board whose members are appointed by both the executive and the legislature. It needs some really power to affect change and not be so subject to political whims and changes in budgeting priorities. It needs stability. It needs to rebuild the trust and confidence of its users and the communities it serves. It needs to once again become a part of Alaska's transportation infrastructure of which we can be proud.

Please support HB 63 as it moves through your committee.

Sincerely,  
Brenda Campen  
Sitka, AK

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From: Mary Corcoran  
Sent: Tuesday, April 6, 2021 10:19 AM  
To: House State Affairs <HouseState.Affairs@akleg.gov>  
Cc: Rep. Louise Stutes <Rep.Louise.Stutes@akleg.gov>; Rep. Sara Hannan <Rep.Sara.Hannan@akleg.gov>; Rep. Daniel Ortiz <Rep.Daniel.Ortiz@akleg.gov>; Representative.Harriett.Drummond@akleg.gov  
Subject: PUBLIC TESTIMONY HB63

Respectfully to State Affairs Committee Members,

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 63.

Diversifying membership on the advisory board ensures a more balanced handling of the various aspects of operating the Marine Highway. Each stakeholder has a seat appointed by potentially differing political and practical persuasions. Additionally, requiring short and long range plans, the latter of which be incorporated by the commissioner of transportation, extends the stakeholder voice further into the operation.

I observed the Marine Highway Reshaping Group worked diligently and methodically to review many aspects of the AMHS. I watched how a variety of voices and interests were incorporated into a report commissioned by the Governor. This type of approach is effective.

Coastal communities served by the AMHS contribute an economic boon to individuals and communities and State that cannot be shelved. Please approve this governing structure.

Sincerely,  
Mary Corcoran  
Delta Junction, AK  
Ellamar, AK

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**From:** summer j andersen  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 6, 2021 10:15 AM

**To:** House State Affairs <HouseState.Affairs@akleg.gov>

**Subject:** In support of HB 63

Hello,

I am lifelong resident of Alaska, but new to SE. I am only experiencing the detriments of limited ferry service for the first time, and I cannot over state how important ferries are to the communities they serve.

Last week, the Matanuska broke down, and the already severely limited service was pushed back by week, leaving my family stranded in Juneau.

What family can afford an extra week worth's of hotel stays and dining out? What family can afford to have their access to affordable groceries cut off? Not this one! Not the people I was stranded with!

HB 63 is just one step needed to restore ferry services and to ensure that the the future of the AMHS actually serves the people of Alaska.

Please do note our support, and please, let us continue to grow our communities into the vibrant centers tourism, commerce, art and culture we know they can be.

Thank you for your time

Summer Andersen  
Haines, AK. 99725

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**From:** Hayden Hunt <hayden.hunt@mehs.us>

**Sent:** Tuesday, April 13, 2021 5:14 PM

**To:** Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins <Rep.Jonathan.Kreiss-Tomkins@akleg.gov>

**Cc:** Kerry McAdams <kerrym@mehs.us>

**Subject:** Ferry system in Alaska

4/12/2021

Hayden Hunt  
Sitka, Alaska, 99835

Dear Representative Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins,

Hello, my name is Hayden Hunt, and I live in Sitka, Alaska. I am currently attending Mount Edgecumbe High School and will soon be graduating. I love this town with all my heart and was born and raised here. I love the ocean and all the beautiful sights to see around Sitka. I want to see that all of the southeast islands become the best place they can be. However, there is a substantial problem with the ferry service that is holding these places back.

There is an extreme lack of ferries going from town to town. Small towns are suffering because of the lack of food and supplies that the ferries deliver to them. The ferry service needs more funding to allow ferries to travel to the towns that are in need. Without the ferries, people will have to worry about

necessities to get them through their week or day. I remember when the problem first came about and the people of Sitka had to volunteer to bring food to the smaller towns. There will also be little transportation which can affect a lot of areas around the southeast. Some people need to travel because work and planes are too expensive in the town they reside. Certain towns rely on the tourist season to make money, and the ferries are vital to make that happen.

I want to see that this problem is fixed because it is making people suffer. The lack of supplies is harming small towns and villages all around southeast Alaska. People need these ferries to be running and be more efficient than they are now. Increased funding and proper scheduling will help everyone involved. I would love it if you can consider making a bill to fix this dire issue. I positively think that this will benefit a large portion of Alaska and hope to see it fixed.

Sincerely,

Hayden Hunt.