

Haines Chamber of Commerce

Resolution 04-0412



A RESOLUTION OF THE HAINES CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN SUPPORT OF REQUESTING FEDERAL AND STATE GOVERNMENTS TO PLAN FUNDING STRATEGIES FOR TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENTS IN SOUTHEAST ALASKA.

WHEREAS, the Alaska Marine Highway System was created as a public transportation network, serving all Alaskans, supported in part by public funds; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Marine Highway System serves as Southeast Alaska's road system, effectively providing ferry service to connect the remote communities of Southeast Alaska and promote economic development within the region for over forty years; and

WHEREAS, the construction of new roads would offer minimal enhancements to Southeast Alaska's transportation system due to the geographic challenges unique to this region; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Marine Highway System is currently in need of investments to ensure continued and improved ferry service in the future; and

WHEREAS, the Haines economy is largely dependent upon being a transportation link between Southeast and interior Alaska, the Yukon, and Lower 48; and

WHEREAS, a majority of Haines residents and businesses support improved Marine Access over a Juneau Access Road;

WHEREAS, the removal of ferries in the Lynn Canal with the exception of the shuttle ferry between Skagway and Haines would remove nearly 20% of the total revenues of the entire system; yet, it would remove less than 10% of the miles traveled by the ferries system wide.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Haines Chamber of Commerce requests that state and federal governments focus planning funding strategies for transportation improvements in Southeast Alaska on enhancing marine transportation within the region.

ADOPTED by the Haines Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors on April 12, 2004.

By Karen M. Hess
Karen Hess, President
Haines Chamber of Commerce
Board of Directors

By Lynda B. Walker
Lynda Walker, Secretary
Haines Chamber of Commerce
Board of Directors