

Haines Chamber of Commerce

A resolution of the Haines Chamber of Commerce opposing construction of road options of the Juneau Access Project and supporting improved Ferry Service.

WHEREAS, the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities is currently taking public comment on proposed access improvements to Juneau; and

WHEREAS, the Juneau Access Project has identified the East Lynn Canal road as the preferred alternative; and

WHEREAS, the East Lynn Canal Road will cross designated wilderness lands (LUD-2) and will negatively impact wildlife habitat for bald eagles, sea lions and salmon; and

WHEREAS, the East Lynn Canal Road could negatively impact the Lynn Canal Commercial fishery due to construction and an increase in sports fishing activity as a result of improved access to the Lynn Canal; and

WHEREAS, the East Lynn Canal Road will traverse fifty-eight avalanche chutes and will have the highest avalanche hazard rating of any highway in North America, with the resulting increase in project and maintenance costs due to avalanche mitigation and clearing; and

WHEREAS, avalanches will result in the loss of any surface access due to road closures, will result in high maintenance costs and will create the potential for the loss of life to maintenance workers and users of the road; and

WHEREAS, increased maintenance costs due to the East Lynn Canal Road will further impact maintenance of existing State transportation facilities such as highways, airports, terminals and marine vessels, which are presently maintained at sub-standard levels; and

WHEREAS, according to Appendix C of the Juneau Access Draft Environmental Impact Statement a majority of residents surveyed in Juneau, Haines and Skagway prefer improved ferry service rather than road access to Juneau.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Haines Chamber of Commerce opposes construction of the East Lynn Canal Road and other road options as currently proposed by the State of Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities and favors improved ferry service to the communities of Haines, Skagway and Juneau.

Adopted:

11/20/97
By Janice M. Hill
Janice M. Hill, President

By Marilyn R. Huitge
Marilyn R. Huitge, Manager

11/18/97