

April 8, 2014

Senator, thank you for a moment of your time,

I write to you today regarding the Skagway to Juneau highway proposal funding. As a lifelong resident of Southeast Alaska I have great interest in the proposed highway project and fully support its completion. I hope we all can ultimately agree that the economic benefits to Skagway and Juneau far outweigh the personal interests of a few non supporters and construction funding will prevail.

Transportation between communities in Southeast Alaska is very time consuming and expensive. As a homeowner in the beautiful community of Sitka and seasonal employee of the White Pass and Yukon Route Railroad in Skagway I am forced to commute several times a year between communities. Transportation is difficult as I live for extended periods of time in both communities and travel with a vehicle in order to bring my personal effects to and from. Typically the AMHS is my preferred transportation method requiring a long overnight stay in Juneau before boarding a second ferry the next morning and arriving in Skagway that afternoon. As inconvenient as the overnight stay in Juneau is I have accepted the situation for what it is and appreciate the marine highway. However, this year is different. While attempting to schedule my transportation from Sitka to Skagway, I learned that an overnight stay would be required in Juneau and Haines, three days to travel 200 miles?!?!?! I am left no choice but to leave my vehicle in Sitka and transport my personal effects on AML barge line (10 days delivery). I will board 2 different aircraft, weather dependent of course, and walk 10 blocks to my apartment upon arrival in Skagway.

A highway between Juneau and Skagway would provide a dependable mode of transportation to and from the glacier bound capital of Juneau Alaska. Costly ferry service between locations could be reduced or eliminated. I personally could commute to and from my homes without the need for an overnight stay in Juneau or dependence on weather while flying to and from the Capital city. The highway would allow me the opportunity to spend my hard earned dollar in our Capital city traveling at my convenience instead of visiting Whitehorse, Yukon Territory. A Juneau resident could drive to Anchorage or beyond at their leisure. Imagine the new business opportunities and economic prosperity the highway would produce for both communities. The benefit produced from funding a road between our communities certainly outweighs the personal interests of a few nonsupporters.

Thanks again for your time and support,

Richard T. Reeder  
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