

Dana Owen

From: Rob Goldberg <artstudioalaska@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 15, 2013 9:50 PM
To: Senator_Dennis_Egan@legis.state.ak.us
Cc: Senator_Fred_Dyson@legis.state.ak.us
Subject: Alaska Class Ferry

Follow Up Flag: Flag for follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: Green Category

To: Alaska State House and Senate Transportation Committee Members

Re: Alaska Class Ferry

Last month, just before Christmas, my wife and I embarked on a trip to take our kids to Florida to see their grandparents. We were scheduled to leave Haines on a Friday, on the LeConte, in order to catch the jet out of Juneau on Saturday. The weather was bad all that week, with temperatures in the single digits, north wind gusting to 75mph, 15 foot seas in Lynn Canal and heavy freezing spray. Wednesday's run of the LeConte from Juneau to Haines was canceled because of the dangerous conditions. Thursday morning we made a decision to go to Juneau a day early, on the Taku. It cost us an extra night in a hotel in Juneau, but we made our flight. Friday's run of the LeConte was canceled.

The LeConte is 235 feet long. The Taku is 352 feet long. The difference in length and volume between the two ferries makes the difference between being able to operate safely in Lynn Canal in the winter, or canceling trips. It also makes the difference between everyone on board being sick and everyone being comfortable.

After much public input from people who actually depend on the ferry system, the new Alaska Class ferry was designed to be about the size of the Taku. Anything smaller will not be safe and reliable in Lynn Canal in the winter.

The governor's abrupt decision to cancel the Alaska Class ferry and replace it with two, smaller, open decked ferries is an insult to Alaskans who need the ferries to travel in the winter. They simply will not work. The state will be repeating the mistake made when the Fairweather and the Chenega were tried in the Lynn Canal.

I don't like to attribute motive, but the governor's two shuttle ferries are suspiciously similar to the ones proposed by DOT for the East Lynn Canal road. If the governor wants to kill the ferry system and build a road, he should just say so.

I know a bit about the proposed East Lynn Canal road. I wrote the Haines Borough's comments on the draft EIS years ago. I'm also one of the few people who has actually had boots on the ground over there, on mountaineering trips. I can tell you with certainty that the road would be vastly more expensive than advertised. The terrain challenges are enormous. A road would be dangerous and closed by avalanches much of the winter. Any shuttle ferry would have to be the size of the Taku, or the Alaska Class ferry, to be able to operate safely in the winter between the Katzeihin terminal and Haines and Skagway.

If we need an Alaska Class ferry to be the shuttle, why build a road? It would be a huge waste of money. Access to Juneau would be made worse, not improved.

I urge you to tell the governor to restore the Alaska Class ferry. His two smaller ferries just won't work.

Sincerely,
Rob Goldberg
Haines

Rob Goldberg and Donna Catotti
Catotti and Goldberg Art Studio
PO Box 1154 Haines, AK 99827 USA
907-766-2707
artstudioalaska.com

Dana Owen

From: Maureen Moore <momooore57@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 15, 2013 10:23 PM
To: Senator_Dennis_Egan@legis.state.ak.us
Subject: Ferry design change

Follow Up Flag: Flag for follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: Green Category

Dear Sen. Egan,

As a long time resident of SE AK I take issue with Gov. Parnell's recent decision to elect an partially open-decked ferry to operate in Lynn Canal.

I wonder when the last time Gov. Parnell rode the ferry to Haines or Skagway? His decision leads me to believe the answer is, possibly, never.

Please do whatever is in your power to ensure that we only have the safest ferries in operation in our waters & that the Governor listens to the voices of the people that live & depend on ferries to safely traverse the "highways" around SE.

Thank you for your years of dignified service.

Maureen E. Moore
Gustavus & Homer

Dana Owen

From: Brooke Elgie <brookeelgie@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 15, 2013 8:54 PM
To: Senator_Dennis_Egan@legis.state.ak.us
Cc: Senator_Fred_Dyson@legis.state.ak.us
Subject: ferries

Follow Up Flag: Flag for follow up
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Categories: Green Category

The Governor's new ferry plan is WRONG on two counts:

It is WRONG to unilaterally discard years of ferry planning done by professionals and supported by public input.

It is also WRONG to suppose that open deck ferries will serve the needs of isolated bush communities like ours where a great deal of our basic supplies are brought in by ferry and where trips can be as long as 12 hours in horizontal rain and snow. Open deck baggage storage and no food service – in winter???

Please tell the Governor "NO"

Brooke Elgie

Wendy Stern

Tenakee Springs

Dana Owen

From: Kiel Renick <krenick@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 15, 2013 5:22 PM
To: Senator_Dennis_Egan@legis.state.ak.us
Subject: opposition to unilateral ferry changes

Dear Senator Egan,

I just wanted to let you know that I support the safe, publically determined and vetted, Alaska Class ferry project currently underway to better serve Southeast Alaska. I do not support unilateral changes to the project, but only changes that are brought about and decided upon by legislators and or the public through a public process, and only changes that would actually be suitable for travel in Southeast Alaska meeting our transportation and safety needs.

Thank you for your time, and for your work.

Sincerely,
Charles Kiel Renick

Dana Owen

From: H Unruh <unruh5832@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 15, 2013 4:58 PM
To: me
Subject: Re: Proposed ferries for Lynn Canal

Dear Alaska Representatives & Senators,

It is my understanding that Governor Parnell recently made a unilateral decision to change the direction of the new Alaska class Ferry----against the wishes of the SE Legislators. His preference for smaller, partially open-deck ferries to operate in Lynn Canal seems to be based on ????? There are two years of legislative review and public process (people who actually depend on ferry travel) which concluded that large, safe and reliable ferries are what is needed.

Anyone who has been on a ferry in inclement weather would probably not want to depend on a smaller partially open-deck ferry!

I hope you will fight for reasonable, safe, reliable ferries. Perhaps send the governor & his friends on one of the smaller ferries up Lynn Canal during a storm.

I hope you will resist the Governor and Department of Transportation Commissioner Pat Kemp as they attempt to circumvent the public process. In all cases, but especially when it may mean life or death to those who depend on the ferry system for transportation.

Thank you for taking a stand.

Helen Unruh

Dana Owen

From: Robert Andrews <andrews@aptalaska.net>
Sent: Tuesday, January 15, 2013 5:07 PM
To: Senator_Dennis_Egan@legis.state.ak.us
Subject: ferries

Categories: Green Category

Governor Parnell's unilateral decision to scrap the Alaska Class ferries and, instead, pursue some scaled-down open deck vessel is completely at odds with the public process and does not consider the needs of winter-traveling Alaskans. Our ferries need to be safe and reliable in all weather conditions, both summer and winter. Even if these Alaska Class vessels exceed the original cost estimate, they will be worth it in the long run with added dependability.

It is not the governor's place to take it upon himself to replace a program that has been well thought out and arrived at with due public process.

Sincerely,
Robert A. Andrews

Dana Owen

From: Tristan Knutson-Lombardo <tkl1289@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 15, 2013 8:35 PM
To: Rep. Peggy Wilson; Representative_Eric_Feige@legis.state.ak.us; Rep. Lynn Gattis; Representative_Craig_Johnson@legis.state.ak.us; Representative_Bob_Lynn@legis.state.ak.us; Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins; Senator_Dennis_Egan@legis.state.ak.us; Senator_Fred_Dyson@legis.state.ak.us; Senator_Anna_Fairclough@legis.state.ak.us; Sen. Click Bishop; Senator_Hollis_French@legis.state.ak.us
Subject: We Need REAL Alaska Class Ferries that Work!

Hi Transportation Committee,

I am writing to voice my displeasure in Governor Sean Parnell's unilateral and undemocratic decision to dismantle the Alaska Class Ferry project. Coastal Alaska needs a ferry system that works for us. With our aging fleet, it is important that we have ferries that are reliable, efficient and provide enough car/passenger/cabin space to serve our unique communities. For the last decade, our system has been ignored and devastated by irresponsible management, ignorant of public input.

You all, as the Joint Transportation Committee, have the opportunity to provide a good and long lasting service to the people of Southeast Alaska. Thousands of Alaskans use and depend on our ferry system, so please don't let us down!

Thank you,

Tristan Knutson-Lombardo
300 Maple St
Juneau, Alaska
907.723.1772

Dana Owen

From: Thom Ely <akthome@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 15, 2013 8:41 PM
To: Rep. Peggy Wilson; Representative_Eric_Feige@legis.state.ak.us; Rep. Lynn Gattis; Representative_Craig_Johnson@legis.state.ak.us; Representative_Bob_Lynn@legis.state.ak.us; Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins; Senator_Dennis_Egan@legis.state.ak.us; Senator_Fred_Dyson@legis.state.ak.us; Senator_Anna_Fairclough@legis.state.ak.us; Sen. Click Bishop; Senator_Hollis_French@legis.state.ak.us
Cc: Haines Borough; Stephanie Scott; s.selmer@skagway.org
Subject: Lynn Canal Ferry

Dear Representatives and Senators of the Transportation Committee,

For those of us that live and work in the communities of Haines and Skagway the Governors plan to substitute the contracted ferry design for his preferred alternative is unacceptable. Much time, effort and money has been spent on designing the Alaska Class Ferry to be deployed in the Lynn Canal as scheduled.

We depend on year round reliable ferry service to meet our personal and business needs. This last minute change of plans casts doubt on the States commitment to provide the service we need. The smaller open deck ferries that the Governor is touting will not be operational in the Lynn Canal during severe weather, which occurs often, any time of the year.

In addition the public process has been circumvented in what appears to be a political tactic to grab a larger share of Federal funds for the Governors real preferred alternative, a road to Juneau. The communities of Haines and Skagway and half the population of Juneau prefer our ferry system to a road up the Lynn Canal.

I urge you to overturn his proposal and direct the AK DOT to move forward with the original plan, an Alaska Class Ferry that can operate year round in the Lynn Canal for the next fifty years.

Sincerely,

Thom Ely
POB 1014
Haines, AK 99827
907-314-0860

Dana Owen

From: Linda Kadrlik <adventuresafloat@gci.net>
Sent: Wednesday, January 16, 2013 7:32 AM
To: Senator_Dennis_Egan@legis.state.ak.us; Rep. Peggy Wilson
Subject: Alaska Class Ferry

Categories: Green Category

I am opposed to Gov. Parnell's decision to build two smaller ferries instead of the already approved Alaska Class ferry. Surely funding can be found to build this more appropriate ferry for southeast Alaska. Perhaps Gov. Parnell should try to get to Skagway by ferry during a winter storm, and then he would know why we need the Alaska Class ferry. Let me know how I can help. Linda

Adventures Afloat
Francis and Linda Kadrlik
4950 Steelhead, Juneau, AK 99801
(800) 3AFLOAT, (907) 789-0111
FAX: (907) 789-3312
<http://home.gci.net/~valkyrie>

Dana Owen

From: Karen Capp <k.capp@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 16, 2013 8:59 AM
To: Senator_Dennis_Egan@legis.state.ak.us
Subject: Ferry

Categories: Green Category

I am not at all sure I know what a Partially Open Deck ferry looks like but I am thinking something you ride in warmer, less rainy climates for short runs. Alaska needs ferries that are safe, reliable, large Alaska Class Ferries that can make any run. Our seas do not lend themselves to little shuttle ferries unless you would only use them on protected runs of less than a 10 miles or so. Doesn't make sense to me at all to build 2 ferries of a type that the people didn't want or need.

Where is the public process or even respect for the public process in the Govenor's decision?

Karen Capp
A Voter!

Dana Owen

From: Chris Fredell <islands@ptialaska.net>
Sent: Wednesday, January 16, 2013 9:22 AM
To: Senator_Dennis_Egan@legis.state.ak.us
Subject: need for capable, safe new ferry

Senator Egan, I raise my voice with those Southeast Alaska residents who are speaking out for the Alaska Marine Highway System, and the replacement vessels that will be needed in the very near future. I am disappointed at the governor's recent decision to abandon the planned Alaska Class replacement vessel, exchanging it for two cheaper and less capable boats. As a Southeast resident whose family and friends use the ferries year-round for both business and pleasure, I strongly encourage you and your senate committee peers to correct this decision. Please help to restore the state's commitment to safe and effective public marine transportation in our region.

Thanks for your efforts, and your service to our community and our state. And--Best Wishes for the upcoming legislative session!

Chris Fredell
Juneau, AK.

Dana Owen

From: Marie Shipley <marieshipley.925@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 16, 2013 10:13 AM
To: Senator_Dennis_Egan@legis.state.ak.us
Subject: open ferries - a bad idea and bad governing

Categories: Green Category

Dear Senator Egan:

As a fellow Alaskan, I am asking that you please speak out in support of safe, reliable ferries and that you not support unilateral decisions that circumvent the public process as demonstrated by Governor Parnell.

To our island communities in SE Alaska, the ferry system is not a luxury but the lifeline to services, business and travel within the state and to the lower 48.

Governor Parnell's unilateral decision to drastically change the direction of the new Alaska Class Ferry—against the wishes of the Southeast legislators and the people they represent.

Ignoring two years' worth of legislative review and public process, the Governor decided he would prefer two smaller, partially open-deck ferries to operate in Lynn Canal rather than a large, safe, reliable ferry that has been approved by the legislature.

Smaller, partially open-deck ferries in Lynn Canal? For those who travel Lynn Canal in the winter, know how unsafe and unrealistic this idea sounds.

The Governor and his recently appointed Department of Transportation Commissioner Pat Kemp are attempting to circumvent the public process and force their ideas onto the public.

Thank you for your representation.

Sincerely,

Marie Shipley

Dana Owen

From: Marina Lindsey <marina.lindsey@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 16, 2013 8:39 AM
To: Rep. Peggy Wilson; Representative_Eric_Feige@legis.state.ak.us; Rep. Lynn Gattis; Representative_Craig_Johnson@legis.state.ak.us; Representative_Bob_Lynn@legis.state.ak.us; Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins; Senator_Dennis_Egan@legis.state.ak.us; Senator_Fred_Dyson@legis.state.ak.us; Senator_Anna_Fairclough@legis.state.ak.us; Sen. Click Bishop; Senator_Hollis_French@legis.state.ak.us
Cc: marina.lindsey@yahoo.com
Subject: Lynn Canal Ferries - We need one big, safe vessel

Dear Legislators,

I am writing to let you know that I'm opposed to Governor Parnell's decision, ignoring public input, in which he decided that two smaller, partially open-deck ferries should operate in Lynn Canal rather than one large, safe, reliable ferry - already approved by the legislature. One, it is inappropriate for a Governor to circumvent public process, and two, smaller ferries will not address the needs of Alaskans, businesses, and tourists who rely on the ferry to travel Lynn Canal. As we all know, there can be very strong winds and big waves in Lynn Canal, and spending public money on more ferries that will not be safe or reliable is not an effective use of State money. It's also not a good public safety decision.

Thank you in advance for getting us back on track with one, seaworthy Alaska-class ferry for Lynn Canal.

Sincerely,

Marina Lindsey
3431 Greenwood Ave.
Juneau, AK 99801
908.780.7818

Dana Owen

From: Willeke Burnham <w.burnham@skagway.org>
Sent: Wednesday, January 16, 2013 11:48 AM
To: Senator_Dennis_Egan@legis.state.ak.us
Subject: Alaska Class Ferry

Senator Egan,

I wish to express my concern regarding the Alaska Class Ferry Redirection. I am a long term resident of Skagway and often rely on the ferry for transportation to Juneau and beyond. The majority of my trips to Juneau are for doctors appointments and other important life events, not to mention a connection to the Juneau Airport. Having a reliable Alaska Class Ferry is vital to our community and quality of life. The Governor's decision to change from one reliable ferry to two smaller ferries astounds me. It is obvious to me that the Governor has not had to rely on ferry transportation and does not realize the impact it has on one's life when a ferry gets cancelled due to weather.

When traveling on a smaller ferry during 14 foot swells, the experience is uncomfortable to say the least. My children, husband and elderly mother in law have all succumbed to sea sickness, which is not something they (or anyone) should have to endure. An Alaska Class Ferry will provide residents with essential reliable transportation. It has been my experience that senior citizens and families with young children prefer to get state rooms, especially when the ferry is scheduled to leave in early morning hours or late at night. Even more so when the ferry is at (or over) capacity with sports teams.

The building of two smaller ferries versus one reliable ferry will end up costing the State even more money, since the inclement Southeast Alaska weather will render them useless.

Willeke Burnham

Dispatcher/TSO

Skagway Police Department

(907) 983-2232

w.burnham@skagway.org

Dana Owen

From: Martin Niemi <cmniemi@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 16, 2013 12:15 PM
To: Representative_Peggy_Wilson@akleg.gov; Representative_Eric_Feige@legis.state.ak.us;
Rep. Lynn Gattis; Representative_Bob_Lynn@legis.state.ak.gov;
Representative.Jonathan.Kreiss-Thomkins@akleg.gov;
Senator_Dennis_Egan@legis.state.ak.us; Senator_Fred_Dyson@legis.state.ak.us;
Senator_Anna_Fairclough@legis.state.ak.us; Sen. Click Bishop;
Senator_Hollis_French@legis.state.ak.us
Subject: Alaska Class Ferry

Dear Alaska Senator/Representative:

Please be advised that as often time Alaska Ferry Passengers, we feel strongly that:

*We want a safe, reliable large Alaska Class Ferry and DO NOT WANT short, partially open deck shuttle ferries.

*We do NOT support unilateral decision making that circumvents the public process.

The Governor's decision, in my mind, raised questions about his ability to lead the state of Alaska in the proper directions.

Thanks,

Martin and Christine Niemi1

Dana Owen

From: Patty Fecteau <patty@hamiltonconst.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 16, 2013 1:53 PM
To: Senator_Dennis_Egan@legis.state.ak.us
Subject: Travel on our Alaska Marine Highway

I am stunned by this, I truly am. Just this week on Monday January 14th, 2013 the Matanuska could not make it safely into Skagway due to the weather conditions and the Lynn Canals dangerous ways!!!! So he actually believes that we will be able to travel on smaller Ferries.....Well maybe he should try to ride the Leconte on up through from Juneau some morning when the weather is its normal cranky little self and see how much smaller he would like to vote for!!! Seriously disturbed by this information....

I really hope someone with a brain in their head can help Governor Parnell get a clue.....

Thank you,

Patty Fecteau

Hamilton Construction, LLC

Po Box 648

Skagway, Alaska 99840

907-983-2702 Office

907-983-2649 FAX

Dana Owen

From: Candace Cahill <candace_cahill@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 16, 2013 2:03 PM
To: Rep. Peggy Wilson; Representative_Eric_Feige@legis.state.ak.us; Rep. Lynn Gattis;
Representative_Craig_Johnson@legis.state.ak.us;
Representative_Bob_Lynn@legis.state.ak.us; Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins;
Senator_Dennis_Egan@legis.state.ak.us; Senator_Fred_Dyson@legis.state.ak.us;
Senator_Anna_Fairclough@legis.state.ak.us; Sen. Click Bishop;
Senator_Hollis_French@legis.state.ak.us
Subject: Joint Transportation Committee Hearing

I am writing in support of safe, reliable Alaska Class ferries, not short, partially open-deck shuttle ferries. I DO NOT support Governor Parnell's unilateral decision to drastically change the direction of the new Alaska Class Ferry.

Candace Cahill
PO Box 662
Skagway, AK 99840
907-983-6675