From: <u>Janet</u>

To: Sen. Dennis Egan; Sen. Bert Stedman; Rep. Sam Kito; Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins; Rep. Daniel Ortiz; Senate

<u>Finance Committee</u>

Subject: Save our Ferries

Date: Sunday, March 29, 2015 8:58:32 PM

Dear Senators and Representatives,

Please restore funding for scheduled Alaska Marine Highway Service. I understand that all departments are facing cuts, but these sudden and drastic changes during Alaska's peak travel season will send unnecessary shockwaves through our communities.

I/my family/our community relies on Alaska Marine Highway Service for getting our vehicle from the lower 48 back to Juneau, for traveling to Skagway, Haines, Tenakee Springs, etc.

Cancelling scheduled runs starting in July could mean people who plan to visit Alaska will be denied access to our great state. I always tell to travel the AMHS instead of taking a cruise on a tour ship. Our ferries are the safest way to travel.

I urge the legislature to proceed with a more gradual and planned approach for reducing the AMHS budget and finding efficiencies to reduce the impact on our local and state economy,

Thank you for your help in saving our ferry system - it's our life line to our Southeast neighbors.

Sincerely,

Janet and Don Kussart

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Juneau, AK 99801