

From: [Colleen Goldrich](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: Funding for Alaska Marine Highways
Date: Monday, March 30, 2015 2:19:24 PM

Honorable Finance Committee,

I own Annie Kaill's in downtown Juneau and I am writing today to urge you to restore and maintain funding to the Alaska Marine Highway. The business that the marine highways bring to Juneau is essential to my success at Annie Kaill's, especially for the long term. The marine highways and airways bring visitors to Juneau who are a big reason that we are able to stay in business year round. If Juneau is to continue as an economic hub for Southeast Alaska and just as importantly to Whitehorse, Canada, we need our marine highways. The marine highways and airways bring visitors to Juneau who stay in our hotels, eat at our restaurants, shop in our stores and enjoy our wonderful town. Cutting funding particularly for this upcoming summer would harm our visitor industry greatly. Imagine the people who have already made their plans and purchased their tickets, not only for the ferry but for all of the other things that they will do during their visit to not just Juneau but all of Alaska. The marine highway system connects the Alaska road system and allows people to travel throughout the entire state.

The marine highway system is just that, our highway system. It is essential to the health of southeast communities in particular, as well as the great state as a whole. As you know, we do not charge people to drive on our roads within the state so the roads therefore do not pay for themselves. The marine highway system is another "road" system that needs to be funded and maintained so that we can continue to travel freely.

Please take action to keep our highways open, marine or land-based, and contribute to a healthy economy for those of us who choose to live in Alaska.

Respectfully,

Colleen Goldrich, Owner

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