

**From:** [Bernie Grieve](#)  
**To:** [Senate Finance Committee](#)  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 31, 2015 12:56:20 PM

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Dear Finance Committee Members:

Please restore funding to the Alaska Marine Highway's operating budget so the State of Alaska can provide services already scheduled aboard the ferries this summer. Many people have already booked tickets and based their entire travel plans around the Marine Highway Schedule.

My community depends on the Marine Highway for [...meeting family needs, commerce, transporting students for educational and recreational activities, visitors, etc.] Cutting funding to the Alaska Marine Highway will prove to be a severe detriment to all communities that rely heavily on their service.

I realize that all departments will have to cut costs, but I think efficiencies could be found by looking into other areas that are not vital to communities that rely on the Alaska Marine Highway System.

However, reductions should be made in a planned, thoughtful, and timely way. Slashing service already scheduled will likely cost the State more in lost revenue than it will gain in savings.

Sincerely,

Bernard Grieve  
Chatham School District  
Superintendent of Schools

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