

**From:** [Jay McClendon](#)  
**To:** [Senate Finance Committee](#)  
**Subject:** Marine Highway Operating Budget Cuts  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 31, 2015 2:34:25 PM

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March 31, 2015

I am a long term Skagway resident and I am writing to tell you that I am disturbed at the recent budget cuts and subsequent cuts to ferry service for the Alaska Marine Highway system.

This is a valuable and irreplaceable service for many of our small and large communities and a vital link for tourist traffic. Cuts to this service will have long term and lasting repercussions for the health of these Communities and Alaska as a whole. The ferry system will not be able to handle the demand and there will be a significant drop in tourism revenues resulting from these cuts. This is bad for Alaska.

I understand that budget decisions are difficult and that you have to make a lot of tough choices when finances are tight. But sacrificing tourism revenue and creating a hardship for many of our communities to save money on the ferry system seems counterproductive. I think there are other less critical areas of the budget that should be considered for cuts before ferry service is cut.

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