

From: [Nancy Berg](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: Alaska Marine Highway budget Cuts
Date: Tuesday, March 31, 2015 5:02:01 PM

Senator Kelly and Senator MacKinnon

I would address the proposed budget cuts to the Alaska Marine Highway budget for this year. We have had the schedule published and been selling travel on this schedule since October, for travel between May and September.

To drastically cut the schedule this year not only affects the travelers who have made complicated plans this year around our state, it would also affect the local operators of hotels, bed and breakfasts, tour operators and other forms of transportation. It would have a serious domino effect on everyone.

I understand the need for cuts, and appreciate that everyone will have to do with less but am asking you to not make these cuts in the middle of the season. It's not like we didn't know this was coming.

It's nothing like an airline schedule change that brings a handful of people into a destination a bit late. Most travelers when they have scheduled changes are accommodated a bit earlier or later, and if they have to overnight they are offered an overnight accommodation for free.

Please consider the damage that will be done to many of these small local business by doing this.

Make sensible changes for the next season

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Thank you

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