



City of Whitehorse
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March 4, 2015

Mark Schaefer
Mayor of Skagway
Skagway Ad Hoc Marine Highway Committee
mpschaefer@skagway.org

Dear Mayor Schaefer:

Re: Alaska Marine Highway Operating Budget Reduction

The City of Whitehorse wishes to express its concerns regarding the proposed budget reduction for the operation of the Alaska Marine Highways System (AMHS), and its effects on MV Malaspina which services the Skagway port.

A major component of the Whitehorse economy, much like the Skagway economy is tourism. In that regard, the City of Whitehorse and the Municipality of Skagway share a very important economic link. Based on 2014 figures (<http://transborder.bts.gov/>), there were 362,637 individuals that crossed the Alaska/Yukon border at Skagway. Presumably, many of these individuals were either arriving in Skagway via the Alaska Marine Highway System or travelling to Skagway to utilize this critical infrastructure.

As a municipal government, we understand the duty of fiscal responsibility. However, we urge the House Finance Committee to carefully consider all the effects, intended or unintended, of reducing the budget and level of service of the AMHS. We believe that a reduction of service to this ferry system would be a detriment to the Skagway and Whitehorse economies individually, and a barrier to the continued development of the economic link between our communities.

Sincerely,

Dan Curtis
Mayor
CITY OF WHITEHORSE

c: Whitehorse City Council
Christine Smith, City Manager
Mike Gau, Director of Development Services