

**From:** [David Berg](#)  
**To:** [Senate Finance Committee](#)  
**Subject:** DOT Budget and the Alaska Marine Highway System funding  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 31, 2015 6:43:35 PM

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Ladies and Gentlemen

Thanks for your efforts and hearings re the DOT budget in respect to the Alaska Marine Highway Ferry System. We urge you to make the necessary adjustments in the budget as suggested by the Governor's office & DOT so the advertised ferry schedule can operate as planned.

It's well known that Alaska residents and visitors alike have already pre-purchased tickets on scheduled ferry trips for this summer. Any disruption to service, be it a mechanical problem or schedule change due to funding, causes a great ripple effect with travel plans and affects a wide range of people beyond the affected traveler.

Usually, visitors plan trips within Alaska and plan for stopovers along the way to make their Alaskan experience a worthwhile one. Pre-arrangements include lodging, tours, car rentals, flightseeing and a variety of other experiences that could all require major adjustments or cancellations should their mode of transportation between communities be changed or eliminated.

We urge you to work with the Department of Transportation and allow funding of the Alaska Marine Highway so that the published summer schedule does not have to be adjusted. Mechanical delays or disruptions can't be avoided but we should all work together to provide forward funding to allow published schedules to operate as planned.

Funding shortfalls should be handled with FUTURE schedules of the AMHS and not those of published schedules where changes will affect thousands of Alaskans and visitors alike.

Best regards from Petersburg.

David Berg,

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