

From: [Paul Koester](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: AMHS operating budget
Date: Wednesday, April 01, 2015 3:02:51 PM

Dear Finance Committee

Please restore funding to the operating budget so that the State of Alaska can provide the scheduled aboard the Alaska Marine Highway System this summer.

My community depends on the Marine Highway for transport from and to Juneau Alaska

People have already booked tickets and made entire travel plans around the Marine Highway Schedule

I realize that all departments will have to cut costs. I think efficiencies could be found by a realistic reduction in other areas. **Also please understand the small portion of Federal Highway Funds that AMHS already receives compared to the actual Federal Highway Miles that Alaska is credited with from the existing AMHS routes.**

However, these reductions should be made in a planned, thoughtful way. Slashing away at scheduled service will likely cost the State more in lost revenue than we will gain in savings.

Sincerely

Paul F Koester
PO Box 240883
Douglas, Alaska 99824