

From: [Mark Schaefer](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: Skagway Alaska Marine Highway Budget Cuts
Date: Tuesday, March 31, 2015 6:03:05 PM

Senate Finance Committee,

With respect to the difficult situation we face with state finance please consider the detrimental impacts of cuts to the Alaska Marine Highway System.

We lose the critical transportation node that is so important to rural Alaska, which for many the only way they can travel.

We have businesses that have will lose customers already booked on the ferry. The already booked 2015 summer visitors will be turned away, and the supporting community businesses will take a large hit.

As we all know, travel in rural Alaska is challenging period, that challenge will now grow greatly in my opinion.

Decreased ferry service may make travel in rural Alaska just a bit more risky, as marine travel is very safe.

By cutting the service you undermine the return on expenditure, by losing the volume you will get less revenue as others have pointed out.

The budget cuts will have an negative adverse affect on all communities on the system, please give that serious consideration.

Lastly please look to resolve the states revenue situation soon rather than kicking the can down the road so that the destructive budget cut impacts can be resolved sooner than later.

Thank you for the work you do, MS

Mark Schaefer, Mayor, Municipality of Skagway.