

Elizabeth Bolling

From: Dennis Egan <egan.dennis@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 11, 2019 4:13 PM
To: Rep. Andi Story; Rep. Louise Stutes
Subject: AMHS

Dear esteemed Reps,

I will not be attending the hearing tomorrow (I'm still learning how to walk all over again among other MS related junk and will be here until may15th) but wanted to send two of my favorites a quick note going on record about the absolute importance of the Alaska Marine Highway System.

With the way the new administration is planning on decimating our coastal transportation system, I am so darn mad that I would suggest DOT impose a toll on our many surface highways in South-central and Interior regions.

One of the first things my father did as Governor upon our becoming a State in 1959 was to form the Alaska Marine Highway System. The first ship constructed, the Malaspina, still serves Southeast Alaska some 55+ years later, way beyond her normal lifespan. I can honestly tell you now that my dad may be rolling in his grave at the lack of knowledge the current administration has as to the purpose of our beloved "blue canoes". It was created as a lifeline to the communities of coastal Alaska and guess what? It has performed far above expectations. I have at least 3 christening boxes that house the original broken champagne bottles hit across the new ferry bows for good luck and safe sailing. I'm enclosing via separate email a copy of a photo taken last year of Bert Stedman, David Wilson and myself. We were celebrating the millions of dollars we got restored to the AMHS fund that would ultimately allow construction of new port facilities and finally, construction of the new cross-gulf ferry.

I am also including a few links regarding the history of the ferry system for other committee members to read.

Thanks for your valuable time and good luck. I planned my retirement perfectly!

Best regards,

Dennis

Dennis Egan
Village @ Keizer Ridge
Unit 221
1165 McGee CT NE
Keizer, OR 97303-9493

Sent from my iPad

Elizabeth Bolling

From: Michael Healy <mike@skagwaybrewing.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 12, 2019 6:49 AM
To: House Transportation
Subject: Ferry

Hello, I am writing you about my concern for the Governor's proposed cuts to the Ferry System. As a business owner, I rely heavily on the ferry for the following reasons:

- It brings people to Skagway, who eat in my restaurants.
- Approximately 90% of my 80+ seasonal employees heavily rely on the ferry to get to and from Skagway.
- 100% of my year-round employees use the ferry to travel back and forth to Juneau.
- I transport construction equipment and vehicles from the State of Washington to Skagway at approximately 50% of the cost of our only other alternative, Alaska Marine Lines.
- When we need parts or supplies, we rely on the ferry to supply them.
- The majority of my subcontractors rely on the ferry to get their tools and supplies to Skagway on short notice.

For the above reasons, and others, I feel that the proposed cuts would be detrimental to my businesses and for the entire economy of Skagway. I urge the Governor to reconsider these cuts and view the ferry system for what it is, which is an economic driver for Southeast Alaska.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Thank you for your time,

Mike Healy
Healy Construction
Skagway Brewing Company
(907) 973-2337



CENTRAL COUNCIL
Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska
[Department Name] • Edward K. Thomas Building
9097 Glacier Highway • Juneau, Alaska 99801

March 11, 2019

The Honorable Representative Stutes
The Honorable Representative Wool
House Transportation Committee Meeting
120 4th Street
Juneau, AK 99801

Members of the House Transportation Committee:

The Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (Tlingit & Haida) is writing to urge you to support the Alaska Marine Highway System (AMHS). The AMHS is the lifeblood of Southeast, Alaska. From high school sports teams, to medical appointments, to tourism, the AMHS fills a desperate need for transportation in Southeast and the rest of the State.

The AMHS serves as a foundation of community sustainability and facilitates statewide economic development through transportation of goods such as: timber, seafoods, art work, etc. Greater affordability and reliability in scheduling will only further encourage community sustainability and economic development. In alignment with Governor Dunleavy's goals of making Alaska a resource state again, many of the goods from Southeast (timber & seafoods) are exported nationally and globally.

The tourism industry is also a high user of the AMHS. Approximately 40% of revenues come from non-residents. These are individuals who want to spend time in each community. During their time in the communities, they are contributing to local economy by purchasing goods and experiencing the community. This economic impact of tourism not only effects Southeast, but the rail belt as well, as many of these individuals continue on into Southcentral via the Alaska Railroad. Top ten destinations of visitors using the AMHS: Fairbanks, Denali National Park, Anchorage, Homer, Seward, Valdez, Haines, Skagway, Juneau, and Ketchikan. All of these communities will feel a negative impact if the AMHS were to stop services.

Some Statewide economic impacts: 175 communities in Alaska utilize the AMHS. The AMHS employees over 1,700 people (approx. 95% Alaska residents). Over 300,000 passengers per year and 100,000 vehicles are transported via the AMHS. Anchorage and Mat-Su residents account for 15% of revenue; Kenai and Interior residents account for 10% of revenue.

Tlingit & Haida is a strong supporter of the AMHS, and we hope that you will be to. Gunalchéesh/ Háw'aa, thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions or need more information, please feel free to contact me at: rpeterson@ccthita-nsn.gov or (800)344-1432.

Sincerely,

Richard J. Peterson,
President

March 8, 2019

Larry N. Carson, President
Pelican Chamber of Commerce
PO Box 737
Pelican, AK 99832

House Transportation Committee
Rep. Stutes, Co-Chair, Rm. 406
Rep. Wool, Co-Chair
Rep. Claman
Rep. Drummond
Rep. Story
Rep. Talerico
Rep. Rasmussen

RE: Alaska Marine Highway System

Dear Committee Members:

The Pelican Chamber of Commerce is very concerned with the proposed reduction in funding to the Alaska Marine Highway System. We are a small coastal community without road access to an urban area, no barge service, and no airport. All freight comes to Pelican either on Alaska Seaplanes or the AMHS. Should we lose the service of the AMHS, the loss will be felt by every business in Pelican.

Our economy must have the ability to move freight in and out of Pelican. A local seafood company, Yakobi Fisheries, (YF), has increased production continually for the past 4 years. In 2015 YF shipped out 16,000 lbs. of processed fish, with 5 employees, and in 2018 YF shipped out 98,000 lbs. of value added fish and employed 24 workers. The vast majority of this product left Pelican on the AMHS ferry. YF recently signed a 25- year lease on the former crab cannery building and plans another increase in production in 2019.

Another Chamber member, Jerue & Smith Transport is a family owned business in Juneau. J&S moves approximately 30,000 pounds of freight in up to 4 large trucks on every ferry that sails to Pelican. The freight

consists of everything from groceries to building materials. It is important the trucks are not exposed to open air; this would allow salt water on the trucks and as well on freight on the flat bed truck. Without ferry service J&S trucking will be out of business.

Another business, Breseman's Liquor Store, cannot ship their wet goods to Pelican on Alaska Seaplanes and then sell their products at a price a customer can afford. The same can be said for Lisianski Inlet Café that receives the majority of their food products on the ferry via J&S Transport. Six fishing lodges receive freight and some of their customers via the ferry. Recently in a conversation with Matt Kern of Barnacle Seafoods he also is an example of a growing business in Pelican. In 2018 Barnacle harvested 8,000 lbs of kelp and had it packed by Yakobi Sales. The kelp was then shipped by YF on the ferry to Juneau for final processing. Barnacle anticipates a harvest of 15 to 20,000 lbs. in 2019 and 20 to 40,000 lbs. in 2020; all to be shipped on the ferry.

It is also important to note that the City is renovating the former Pelican Cold Storage buildings, two of the three larger ones are done and under lease, the third building is being worked on now. In a lease agreement with Hoonah Cold Storage the former commercial ice plant was replaced with new equipment and approximately 700 tons of ice were sold annually the last three years. All of this equipment and building material came to Pelican on the AMHS.

While we feel good about the economic trend in our community, we also feel threatened by the actions proposed by our Governor. If we lose the AMHS, it is likely the economic gains will be reversed. We need our ferry service far more than two permanent fund distributions; those are in the past, we are more concerned about the future.

Thank you for considering these comments,



Larry N. Carson, President
Pelican Chamber of Commerce
www.pelican.net

Elizabeth Bolling

From: Kevin Elliott <elliott.kevinc@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 11, 2019 9:22 PM
To: House Transportation
Cc: Rep. Sara Hannan
Subject: Public Testimony on AMHS: Please fully fund our ferries!

Dear Co-Chair Stutes and Co-Chair Wool

I'm writing to you as a born and raised Alaskan and resident of Juneau, AK. I urge you to reject the spending cuts to the Alaska Marine Highway System that are included in Governor's Dunleavy Amended FY2020 budget which will be up for the consideration of the House Transportation Committee on March 12th 2019.

AMHS provides a vital link between the contiguous United States and Alaska along with interconnecting Alaska's many coastal communities. Alaska's Marine Highway provides necessary services to coastal Alaskans much how the Glenn Highway provides the basis for transportation, shipment of goods and infrastructure for tourism for the Mat-Su valley. A 75% reduction in State funding to the Glenn Highway hardly seems inline with providing the transportation service identified as a core function of State government by Governor Dunleavy and would be considered wholly inappropriate. There is no reason to think of AMHS any differently.

The continued comparison of metrics and operational costs between AMHS and highways (especially those in the contiguous United States) seems to be disingenuous at best. They are two separate types of services facing their own unique set of challenges. Additionally attempting to compare AMHS' ferry services to those in Washington State seems equally untoward. Alaska is larger than many countries, has more coast line than all of the other states combined and a population far less than the greater Seattle area. If we are going to have a productive conversation regarding these services then we need to stop attempting to apply solutions and approaches that don't acknowledge our State's unique geography, weather and demographics.

As for solutions, I think that Alaska needs some type of broad-based tax to provide stable and reliable funding for state services, directly link publicly provided funds to services and protect the long-term solvency of the Permanent Fund. Considering the large portion of the Alaskan workforce that is non-resident, I would personally prefer an income tax to be instituted so that non-resident workers can help fund their share of the infrastructure and services that facilitate their livelihood.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my testimony.

Sincerely

Kevin Elliott
Juneau, AK



March 11, 2019

Yakobi Fisheries LLC
Seth Stewart, Owner
172 Salmon Way, Room E
Pelican, AK 99832

Rep. Louise Stutes, Co-Chair
Rep. Adam Wool
Committee Members
House Transportation

SSHB39
Alaska Marine Highway System Funding

Dear Finance Committee Members:

Yakobi Fisheries LLC (YFish) is a small family owned and operated seafood processing business located in Pelican Alaska. I, Seth Stewart, was born and raised in Pelican. I grew up fishing and selling fish to Pelican Seafood. When Pelican Seafood changed hands multiple times, then closed down for good, the population of Pelican started to dwindle. The City budget shrank, and the school is at risk every year of not having the ten child requirement for funding to stay open. Fishermen struggled to continue to live in Pelican, but still called it home, but without a fish buyer, available ice, or a store, it was no longer viable to base their fishing operations out of Pelican.

In recent years, that has started to change. The state gave hundreds of thousands of dollars in grant money to the City to get the ice machines up and running. Hoonah Cold Storage started buying troll salmon there. This made it possible for YFish to build our foundation for rapid growth in Pelican. With the help and support of the remaining community members, a big family, and the fleet of fishermen that still call Pelican home, we have been able to expand production 6 fold in four years.

This would not have been possible without being able to ship freight on the Alaska Marine Highway System. Most of the materials, equipment and supplies we have used in the last four years arrived Pelican on the Ferry. The frozen and some fresh product we have produced were shipped out on the ferry. Food to support our crew comes in on the ferry. We also now have year round employees that live in Pelican, this is only possible because the ferry brings in food

and supplies to survive the winter there. Pelican often goes weeks without a plane in the winter, and the freight costs double the price of goods on a seaplane.

YFish expects to double our current production over the next couple years, but it will not be possible without the use of the ferry system to ship supplies in and product out. We cannot compete with larger processors without using affordable shipping methods. There is not currently a private shipping company that exists to service our freight needs in Pelican.

Although I understand the budget crisis the State faces, and the extreme cost of the Alaska Marine Highway System, we fear the Governors' budget proposal to cut funding to the AMHS will not only be the end of the ferry, but also the end of a positive economic trend in Pelican, and the end of a community that was built by the population that makes up the largest industry in our state, fishermen.

We, Yakobi Fisheries and the community of Pelican, need our ferry system to survive!

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Seth Stewart
Owner/ Operator
Yakobi Fisheries LLC
(907)209-1053
yakobifish@yahoo.com

CC: Gov. Mike Duleavy
Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins
Ben Stevens
John Moller
Shirley Marquardt
John Falvey
Southeast Conference

Elizabeth Bolling

From: Lizzie Thompson <thompsonthree@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 12, 2019 8:18 AM
To: Rep. Joshua Revak; Rep. Laddie Shaw; Rep. Ivy Spohnholz; Rep. Andi Story; Rep. Louise Stutes; Rep. Colleen Sullivan-Leonard; Rep. David Talerico; Rep. Geran Tarr; Rep. Steve Thompson; Rep. Cathy Tilton; Rep. Chris Tuck; Rep. Sarah Vance; Rep. Tammie Wilson; Rep. Adam Wool; Rep. Tiffany Zulkosky
Subject: Petersburg, AK

Good Morning,

Our Governor is putting small communities at risk. I live in a community that will suffer dramatically if these cuts go through as proposed. We're lucky to have interest from the PFD reserves that can be used to be a sustainable funding source for years to come - that, in addition to a progressive income tax, would solve this problem without decimating small Alaskan communities. Our state budget has been getting cuts for years at this point. We cannot cut our way out of this problem. Please think long-term and reject these cuts. Alaska needs you!

Thank you , Lizzie Thompson

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PO Box 1631
Petersburg, AK 99833
907-772-2775

March 11, 2019

Jerue and Smith Transport, LLC-serving Pelican, AK

PO Box 211434

Auke Bay, AK 99821-1434

House Transportation Committee;

Rep. Stutes, Co-Chair; Rep. Wool, Co-Chair; Rep. Claman; Rep. Drummond; Rep. Story; Rep. Talerico;
Rep. Rasmussen

Dear Committee Members:

Thank you for having this opportunity in having a discussion on SSHB39-Alaska Marine Highway System Funding. My husband and I will not be able to attend as we will be aboard the LeConte going to and from Pelican, AK with freight, Tuesday, March 12, 2019. I only hope those present and any other letters you receive will be able to convey to you as individuals and committee members, the vital importance of our AMHS here in Southeast Alaska.

I do have questions in regards to how the AMHS is viewed by someone who may not live in or is familiar with how the AMHS relates to life in Southeast Alaska.

- 1) How many Legislators and/or House Transportation Committee Members have taken a ferry ride to any of the destinations our ferry system serves and has seen first-hand the passengers, vehicles-personal and commercial that bring groceries, household items-furniture, appliances; fishing boat parts; building supplies and many other items that are necessary to the daily life of those residents in each community? Not to mention transporting equipment for repairs on a City's electrical, water and sewer systems?
- 2) How many Legislators and/or HTC members have witnessed how crews treat the passengers and their property with efficiency, friendship, and professionalism? Many of the crews get to know many of these passengers as they travel a lot on the ferry system to and from Juneau and perhaps connecting with airline flights elsewhere, for medical, school trips, vacations and so on.
- 3) How often are the crews and employees who deal regularly with these communities, asked if they have any input as how to better things-you might be surprised at the positive and well thought out solutions that might help. These are people who like and enjoy their jobs. They see how things do and do not work in different scenarios. They may feel pride in being a part of something that is so important to so many-being part of a consistent, dependable, reliable means of transportation-a marine highway.

Jerue and Smith Transportation, LLC is a family owned and run business who serves only Pelican, Alaska. We have box vans and flatbeds to load with freight whenever the ferry system heads to that wonderful community. We have been doing this for many years. We are the only regular scheduled freight service to that town. Yakobi Fisheries is another family owned business in Pelican. They have invested time and

resources into bringing a wonderful product of SE Alaskan fish to markets. We have transported much of their equipment to Pelican and back hauled fish for them. This would not have been possible without our AMHS. Yakobi Fisheries is growing and offering good summer time employment—and would be hard hit if there was no AMH service to Pelican, bringing out their carefully processed fish.

Much of the freight we transport will not fit in the commuter airlines that fly into Pelican. There are times when the planes cannot fly for days and sometimes weeks due to weather. If that was the only schedule means of transportation-many communities would feel the crunch. It is good to have alternate options, such as a private carrier, to assist in getting much needed freight to and from Pelican and other towns. These other options would not help us in getting our vehicles to any destination, as they are open vessels and may not be large enough if we have to take four vehicles plus whatever other orders they may have. It is important to the maintenance of our vehicles to be in a protected environment from the weather/water for the length of time to and from Pelican. Also, for some of these alternate vessels, they depend on tides—which could present some issues. For Jerue and Smith Transport, if there is no ferry service, there is no Jerue and Smith Transport.

We, (Jerue and Smith Transport, LLC) understand what our Governor and staff are trying to do; out of control spending makes budgets a nightmare for all. Opening up good dialogue and getting everyone to find ways to tighten their belts can be a good thing. However, it cannot be done in one short span of time. There are real people in these small SE communities-not just numbers and statistics. Our AMHS is so very vital to the survival and health of these towns who support and need our Alaska Marine Highway System.

What is the Mission Statement for the Alaska Marine Highway System?

Thank You.



Jerue and Smith Transport, LLC

Greg & Donica Jerue

Craig & Donita Smith

Elizabeth Bolling

From: Rep. Louise Stutes
Sent: Tuesday, March 12, 2019 8:56 AM
To: Elizabeth Bolling
Subject: FW: Ferry Testimony

From: Iris Neary <neary.iris@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 12, 2019 8:11 AM
To: Rep. Adam Wool <Rep.Adam.Wool@akleg.gov>; Rep. Louise Stutes <Rep.Louise.Stutes@akleg.gov>
Subject: Ferry Testimony

Ferry Testimony

The ferries are our lifeline in coastal Alaska. As Alaskans we have prided ourselves on our communities and ability to connect with our neighbors and friends across this vast state. In southeast Alaska the ferries keep our individual small communities vibrant and strong. During my 27 years of living in Juneau, I have seen the people of Sitka, Petersburg, Ketchikan, Hoonah, Tenakee, Wrangell, and Gustavus, come to Juneau for their monthly Costco run. We take the ferries to find affordable health care in the public health fair pre-diabetes checks. The ferries allow our sports teams to grow in competition with other small communities not on the road system. No bridge can connect Sitka to Juneau. Families cannot fly a month's worth of groceries from Juneau to their hometown. The ferries keep Alaskans happy, safe, and healthy. Please keep Alaska's ferry system running strong.

Sincerely,
Iris Neary

Juneau, AK 99801

Elizabeth Bolling

From: Rep. Louise Stutes
Sent: Tuesday, March 12, 2019 8:57 AM
To: Elizabeth Bolling
Subject: FW: alaska ferries

From: Mary Willson <mwillson@gci.net>
Sent: Tuesday, March 12, 2019 7:28 AM
To: Rep. Louise Stutes <Rep.Louise.Stutes@akleg.gov>
Subject: alaska ferries

Greetings. The ferries are the highway in Southeast. The small communities depend on them for access to shopping and medical services; without the ferries, those folks have to fly, which becomes inordinately expensive, raising their cost of living greatly. It is unfair to cut those ferry services!

I also note that it is ridiculous to compare the cost per mile or per car or whatever with the possible cost on a land highway. There IS no land highway hereabouts, so the comparison is empty. In any case, any proposed land highway would not serve those small communities on the islands.

We need to KEEP the ferry service!!!

Mary F. Willson
Juneau

Elizabeth Bolling

From: mhunter388 <mhunter388@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 11, 2019 6:25 PM
To: House Transportation
Subject: Ferry System Budget Cuts

To whom it may concern,

The proposed budget cuts to the AMHS are devastating to Southeast Alaskan communities. The ferry system provides reliable transportation in any weather, access to remote communities, opportunities for transporting vehicles (full of Costco goods/furniture/pets/etc.), and it brings a special class of tourists to Alaska. Traveling by ferry allows school teams to bring their own vehicle, it gives students the time and space to do homework, and allows teams from different schools to bond off the court. Each ferry is unique, and they are all part of Southeast Alaskan culture.

Please don't dismantle the Alaska Marine Highway System, we still need it.

Sincerely,
Margaret Agner

Elizabeth Bolling

From: Cushing <cushing@gci.net>
Sent: Monday, March 11, 2019 8:01 PM
To: Rep. Louise Stutes
Subject: budget

Dear Representative Stutes,

Governor Dunleavy's proposed budget will devastate the small coastal towns of Alaska. I support a smaller dividend and using a percentage of the Permanent Fund earnings for state spending. I also support an income tax. Too many people earn their money in Alaska but spend it elsewhere.

These drastic cuts to Marine Highway, Education, Public Broadcasting and Medicaid will have horrendous consequences.

Look at Kansas to see what happened when a governor dramatically cut spending.

Marlene Cushing

Petersburg, Alaska

Elizabeth Bolling

From: Tom Robinson <columbiatom@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 11, 2019 6:14 PM
To: Rep. Louise Stutes
Subject: Ferry funding

Representative Stutes,

One way AMHS could generate the revenue needed is with season passes. \$1500-2000 per person and vehicle to be able to ride anytime for the fiscal year. People could still buy individual ride tickets if they don't travel that much. It would cost less than a one way ticket from Bellingham to Juneau with a vehicle and I believe would skyrocket ridership that has severely waned in the last 10 years. Make it a groupon style pass where so many people needed to buy it for it to realize. Make it available to AK residents first for a month, then everybody else. If 55,000 people paid \$1500-\$2000 for a pass that would generate \$82.5-110 million.

Thank you for your time.

Tom Robinson
Wrangell, AK

Elizabeth Bolling

From: Neal Cooper <ncooper@gci.net>
Sent: Monday, March 11, 2019 5:06 PM
To: House Transportation
Subject: Marine Hywat opinion

My Name is Neal Cooper

I have been in Kodiak for the better part of 40 years. In that time I have never had a problem with the ferry system until we started going to the remote villages.

SO no one try's to accuse me of prejudice, note that I said going to Remote Villages. for years now, those of us in Kodiak City are paying for the ferry trip[to the villages and our run time is 4 or more hours longer as well for a vehicle or two and maybe a few walk on's. For us Kodiak City citizens to pay the difference for the fuel, folks on the ferry and the inconvenience it causes us and our dogs for the longer trips. It is not fare for us to pay for another, it just isn't right. I like the old days schedules and no winter operations!!! Run the ferry in the off season only when the ferry is full or near full and to ports that pay their own way.

Just like everything else these days we pay to make life better for others and the upside is zero. Just not financially a good investment as you know when the accounting is done and you see how much the ferry system is losing financially. If I were investing in a business and it was losing the amount the Ferry System is losing I would have pulled my money a long time ago and put it in something that makes money.

Elizabeth Bolling

From: Rep. Louise Stutes
Sent: Tuesday, March 12, 2019 8:20 AM
To: Elizabeth Bolling
Subject: FW: alaska ferries

From: Mary Willson <mwillson@gci.net>
Sent: Tuesday, March 12, 2019 7:28 AM
To: Rep. Louise Stutes <Rep.Louise.Stutes@akleg.gov>
Subject: alaska ferries

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We need to KEEP the ferry service!!!

Mary F. Willson
Juneau

Elizabeth Bolling

From: Rep. Louise Stutes
Sent: Tuesday, March 12, 2019 8:20 AM
To: Elizabeth Bolling
Subject: FW: Ferry Testimony

From: Iris Neary <neary.iris@gmail.com>
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Iris Neary

Juneau, AK 99801