

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY TAYLOR AND HUDSON

2

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 8

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IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

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FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

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Relating to levels of service by the

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Alaska Marine Highway System.

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BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

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WHEREAS interstate highways play an integral role in the commerce of

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the state and the United States; and

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WHEREAS the Alaska Marine Highway System is used by residents of the

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Southeastern, Southcentral, and Interior Regions of the state as an inter-

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state and intrastate highway; and

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WHEREAS the residents of Southeastern Alaska have assented to a less

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convenient manner of transportation due to the high cost of constructing

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roads and the limitations, imposed by geographic circumstances, upon road

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construction; and

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WHEREAS the Alaska Marine Highway System is used by shippers to trans-

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port produce and other essential goods from Seattle to the Southeastern,

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Southcentral, and Interior Regions of the state, thus providing retailers

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and consumers with these goods in the most timely manner possible; and

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WHEREAS, in the winter months, approximately 40 percent of the users

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of the Alaska Marine Highway System traveling between Seattle and Haines

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are destined for the Southcentral and Interior Regions of the state; and

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WHEREAS the closure of, or reduced service on, a highway during winter

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jeopardizes the tenuous winter economy of communities in the state; and

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WHEREAS the proposed reductions in the winter schedule of the Alaska

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Marine Highway System could severely damage the economy of communities

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dependent upon the Alaska Marine Highway System for the reliable and con-

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tinuous supply of produce and other essential goods and for transportation

1 services;

2 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests
3 the Governor to direct the Department of Transportation and Public Facil-
4 ities to maintain the operation of the Alaska Marine Highway System at the
5 same level as for other interstate highways in the state.