

**Alaska Municipal League
Resolution #2020-23**

**Urging the Alaska Legislature to Override \$5 Million Veto of Alaska Marine Highway
System Funding for FY2020.**

WHEREAS, the Alaska Marine Highway System (AMHS) is a fundamental and critical method of transportation for Alaska's coastal communities; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature passed its FY2020 budget in June, 2019 reducing AMHS funding by \$44 Million and prompting DOT to propose reduced ferry service to coastal communities with gaps in ferry system for as much as six to eight months; and

WHEREAS, the Inlandboatmen's Union of the Pacific (IBU) went on strike starting July 24, 2019, which shut down all ferry operations for approximately two weeks; and

WHEREAS, the IBU strike and cessation of ferry operations required AMHS to refund some passenger fares, resulting in an unanticipated \$3 Million reduction in AMHS revenue; and

WHEREAS, HB 2001 passed by both the House and Senate on July 29, 2019, added back \$5 Million in operating funds for AMHS in FY2020; and

WHEREAS, on August 19, 2019 Governor Dunleavy vetoed the additional \$5 Million of AMHS operating funds; and

WHEREAS, Alaskan communities rely on the Alaska ferry system and AMHS will continue to play an integral role in the future economy and health of coastal Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska ferry system is critical to supporting the Alaska seafood industry; and

WHEREAS, the AMHS supports commerce routes across Alaska, reaching communities both coastal and within the interior; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature can override a veto within the first five days of its next session immediately following a veto.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League urges the Alaska Legislature to override the \$5 Million veto of AMHS funding for FY2020.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE ON THE 22nd DAY OF NOVEMBER 2019.

Signed: 

President, Alaska Municipal League

Attest: 

Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League