



# United States Department of the Interior

## NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve

P.O. Box 140

Gustavus, Alaska 99826-0140

Tel: 907-697-2230 Fax: 907-697-2654



IN REPLY REFER TO:

A3815



NOV 01 2019

The Honorable Michael J. Dunleavy  
Office of the Governor  
State of Alaska  
PO Box 110001  
Juneau, AK 99811-0001

**FILE COPY**

Dear Governor Dunleavy:

I wish to share some of the economic impacts to the Gustavus community and nearby areas where my employees live as a result of the November 1st press release from Commissioner MacKinnon. I am also seeking clarification to the information which could threaten our ability to service over 600,000 visitors maintaining the moral, as well as the health and wellbeing of my employees that represent the single largest employer in the local area. I know you care deeply about the economic viability of Alaska.

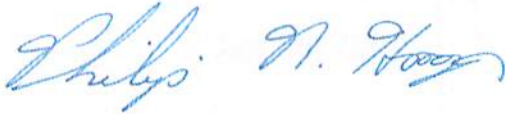
Currently Gustavus is one of the more profitable runs of the Alaska Marine Highway, with the vast bulk of food, almost all vehicle transport, household possession movement, and building and industrial supplies moved via the ferry. The transportation system is built on this fundamental organization, and while alternatives might be able to be developed, doing so this abruptly will lead to significant local harm, and that harm would project regionally due to the keystone nature of the Glacier Bay tourism experience.

The community was informed that it would in essence have no service for months to over half a year with the poor scheduling of the Gustavus dock project. We were also informed that there would be service to Hoonah but not Gustavus. This is a situation that left us quite surprised as many of the boats that would be put in service could just as easily accommodate the Gustavus run. One of the State's more successful ferry runs have been the combination of Juneau, Hoonah and Gustavus. I hope that this is just a poor interpretation on our part of the announcement.

We have already had indications that new park employees will be reconsidering moving to Gustavus. Winter is the season we do most of our permanent hiring and moves in preparation for the summer season. The effect on moral of my staff was broadly evident this morning with people saying that if this became part of the permanent situation they would reconsider living here. The degree of uncertainty in the situation and lack of a practical long term plan for

stability adds considerably to the strain. The capacity to move between communities in Southeast by water is a backbone of an efficient economy here as much as any road in the state and the economic repercussions will be substantial to this area. We would be grateful if you could clarify this situation for us, and hope that the Park, with the community of Gustavus, could work with the State of Alaska on a pathway to mitigate some of the effects we foresee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Philip N. Hooge". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Philip N. Hooge, Ph.D.  
Superintendent

FILE COPY  
Cc:  
U.S. Senator Lisa Murkowski  
Commissioner John MacKinnon  
Senator Jesse Kiehl  
Representative Sara Hannan  
City of Gustavus, Alaska