

**CITY OF HOMER  
HOMER, ALASKA**

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**RESOLUTION 19-079**

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF HOMER, ALASKA  
CONSIDERING UNACCEPTABLE THE REDUCTIONS TO FUNDING  
FOR THE ALASKA MARINE HIGHWAY SYSTEM IN FY20 AND  
CHANGES TO THE WINTER FERRY SCHEDULE, OPPOSING ANY  
FURTHER REDUCTIONS TO THE SYSTEM'S BUDGET, AND  
SUPPORTING REFORM THAT IS SUSTAINABLE AND RESPONSIVE  
TO THE NEEDS OF COASTAL COMMUNITIES

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

WHEREAS, State investment in the AMHS produces a return on State funding almost  
two to one, facilitating both economic and community development; and

WHEREAS, State government does not experience that return without a broad-based  
tax, but local tax bases rely on an active and fully functioning ferry system; and

WHEREAS, The reductions in FY20 revenue and the corresponding winter schedule,  
which eliminated service in some communities (including those served from Homer) for as  
much as six to eight months, creates a health, safety, and economic crisis in those  
communities; and

WHEREAS, Local governments such as Homer have little say in the structure of the ferry  
system, and are not in a position to act in the State's stead; and

WHEREAS, It remains the fact that local governments such as Homer feel incredible  
responsibility for the lives and livelihoods of residents, for whom the winter schedule is  
untenable; and

WHEREAS, While the State works toward long-term solutions, local governments,  
including Homer, have demanded that funds be appropriated such that communities see  
continued service; and

WHEREAS, Until the State has finalized a negotiated, long-term solution that includes  
local governments, further reductions to the system are clearly detrimental to the well-being  
of Alaskans; and

43 WHEREAS, Local governments such as Homer recognize the challenges facing the ferry  
44 system, but dismantling it further will not result in a viable future; and

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46 WHEREAS, There is not a scenario in the future economy and communities of coastal  
47 Alaska that the ferry system does not play an integral part.

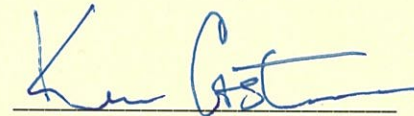
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49 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of Homer, Alaska considers  
50 unacceptable the reductions to funding for the AMHS in FY20 and the changes to the winter  
51 schedule for many ferry-dependent communities; and

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53 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council of Homer, Alaska opposes any further  
54 reduction to the System's budget and supports reform that is sustainable and responsive to  
55 the needs of coastal communities.

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57 PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Homer City Council this 28th day of October, 2019.

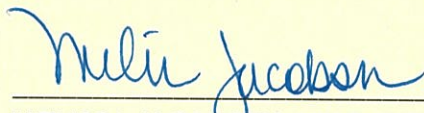
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CITY OF HOMER



KEN CASTNER, MAYOR

ATTEST:



MELISSA JACOBSEN, MMC, CITY CLERK

Fiscal Note: N/A

