



# City of Pelican

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EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

## RESOLUTION 2020-2

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF PELICAN IN SUPPORT OF ATTACHED RESOLUTION 2020-18 AND 2020-23 PASSED BY THE ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE URGING THE ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE TO OVERRIDE THE \$5 MILLION VETO OF THE ALASKA MARINE HIGHWAY AND THE UNACCEPTABLE REDUCTION TO FUNDING OF THE ALASKA MARINE HIGHWAY AND HOW THIS EFFECTS THE COASTAL COMMUNITIES OF ALASKA.**

**WHEREAS;** the Alaska Marine Highway System (AMHS) provides a critical transportation link from Juneau to Pelican; and

**WHEREAS;** the community of Pelican, Alaska supports and requires adequate service to support the economic and social needs of its residents and businesses; and,

**WHEREAS;** the social and economic vitality of Pelican and the development of economic opportunities in our community depend on the AMHS; and,

**WHEREAS;** the reduction in services with the revised winter schedule resulted in no ferries for the community of Pelican, Alaska for the next 6 to 8 months, causing a crisis for businesses and community members that rely on the ferry for services,

**WHEREAS;** the Pelican City Council understands that budget cuts must be made,

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:** The Pelican City Council urges the Alaska State Legislature to consider the results of the changes to the Alaska Marine Highway budget for the coastal communities and to override the \$5 million veto of Alaska Marine Highway System Funding for FY2020.

**PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS 8<sup>th</sup> DAY OF January, 2020.**

Signed:

Walt Weller, Mayor

Attest:

Lattieca Stewart, City Clerk

**Alaska Municipal League  
Resolution #2020-18**

**Considering unacceptable the reductions to funding for the Alaska Marine Highway System in FY20 and the changes to the winter schedule; opposing any further reduction 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 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 for as much as six to eight months, creates a health, safety and economic crises in those communities; and

**WHEREAS**, local governments 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 the local governments 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 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

**WHEREAS**, local governments recognize the challenges facing the ferry system, but dismantling it further will not result in a viable future; and

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

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska Municipal League considers unacceptable the reductions to funding for the Alaska Marine Highway System in FY20 and the changes to the winter schedule for many ferry-dependent communities; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska Municipal League opposes any further reduction to the System's budget and supports reform that is sustainable and responsive to the needs of coastal communities.

**PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE ON THE 22<sup>nd</sup> DAY OF NOVEMBER 2019.**

Signed:   
President, Alaska Municipal League

Attest:   
Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League

**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 22<sup>nd</sup> DAY OF NOVEMBER 2019.

Signed:   
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President, Alaska Municipal League

Attest:   
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Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League