



Petersburg High School

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Richard Dormer
Principal
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To Whom It May Concern:

Good morning,

I am writing this letter as a representative of Petersburg High School and President of The Region V of the Alaska Schools Activities Association. We are a region dependent on our Alaska Marine Highway. The ferry provides transportation that allows all of our Southeast schools to participate in activities and athletic events. We rely heavily on the ferry system and schedule our events around the ferry so these events can be well attended and successful.

As an Activities Director and school employee, we see the everyday value that activities and athletics have for our students, value that translates into life-long skills that help our students in their future endeavors. By having a network throughout Southeast, our students are well connected with each other, and those connections and support systems are in place when they go out into the real world. These connections help them navigate their experiences in college, trade school and help them gain employment, among other benefits.

The Alaska Marine Highway System is an integral part of transportation for teams and communities throughout all of Southeast Alaska. We rely on the ferry to get us from community to community to play games, participate in music festivals, learn student government, and experience other events and cultures that may not be available in our own communities. From the Skagway's Klondike Road Relay to Juneau's Gold Medal Basketball Tournament to Petersburg's May Festival, our students are exposed to various events, cultures and communities. Many of these events continue into their adult lives.

We are grateful for the service that the Alaska Marine Highway provides. The ferry allows us to travel with bigger groups to events such as Region V Basketball and Southeast Music Festival. Flying big groups is not always possible nor feasible. AMHS is vital to the success of our schools, students, and communities. Without connections to each other we lose the network we have built to support our students.

And while we understand that in times like these, budgets must be trimmed and tightened, we implore you to do the right thing for our future generation. The future of Alaska is our children and we need to build a better Alaska for them. We support the Alaska Marine Highway System as it is an integral part of our communities' culture.

Sincerely,
Mr. Jaime Cabral
Region V President
Dean of Student Development
Activities Director
Petersburg High School & Mitkof Middle School