

A Resolution of the Haines Borough Requesting the State of Alaska to fulfill its statutory responsibility for maintaining and funding the Alaska Marine Highway System (AMHS) as identified in AS 19.65.050.

WHEREAS, Alaska Statute 19.65.050(a)(1) has identified AMHS as "an essential part of the state transportation system and that it warrants continued and predictable state support"; and

WHEREAS, the AMHS has served Alaska's coastal communities' transportation needs since 1963; and

WHEREAS, Alaska Statute 19.65.050(a)(2) has identified that "many communities' economies are dependent on a steady and stable marine highway system service level; and

WHEREAS, Alaska Statute 19.65.050(a)(4) provides that "efficient and prudent management of the system will benefit the state's economy and foster economic development"; and

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska is required to "provide for a predictable funding base for system operations" (AS 19.65.050(b)(3)); and

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska is further required to "provide for predictability and stability in the service level furnished to communities served by the system" (AS 19.65.050(b)(4)); and

WHEREAS, it is the statutory "intent" that the State of Alaska "achieve stability in the level of service communities can anticipate through accurate planning and scheduling" (AS 19.65.050(c)(3)); and

WHEREAS, money appropriated by the legislature shall be "consistent from year to year and is the amount necessary, after consideration of gross revenue, to provide stable services to the public consistent with AS 19.65.050(b)(4) and AS 19.65.060(a)(2)); and

WHEREAS, ferries provide many critical services to small coastal communities, including the only reliable and non-weather dependent means of travel; affordable travel for school athletic and scholastic programs; a reliable and necessary link to health services; a means to transport food and other essential supplies; and

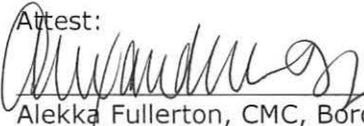
WHEREAS, when small planes can't fly due to weather conditions (sometimes for days on end) ferries deliver the mail which can include necessary prescription medication; and

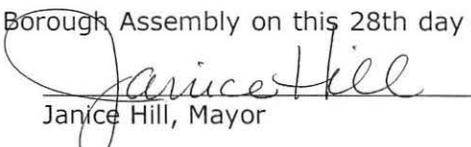
WHEREAS, recent drastic and rapid cuts in AMHS service has violated state statutes;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Haines Borough requests the State of Alaska provide adequate funding to maintain the existing ferry fleet and re-establish predictable and stable ferry service to coastal communities throughout the year.

Adopted by a duly-constituted quorum of the Haines Borough Assembly on this 28th day of January, 2020.

Attest:


Alekka Fullerton, CMC, Borough Clerk


Janice Hill, Mayor

