

RESOLUTION 13-04

**RESOLUTION OF THE SITKA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION
REQUESTING THE ALASKA MARINE HIGHWAY SYSTEM (AMHS) PROVIDE A CORE
LEVEL OF SERVICE THAT, AT A MINIMUM, INCLUDES TWO VESSELS COVERING THE
PRINCE RUPERT ROUTE FROM MAY THROUGH SEPTEMBER.**

WHEREAS, the mission of the Alaska Marine Highway is to provide safe, reliable, and efficient transportation of people, goods, and vehicles among Alaska communities, Canada, and the "Lower 48," while providing opportunities to develop and maintain a reasonable standard of living and high quality of life, including social, education, and health needs; and

WHEREAS: Southeast Alaska coastal communities without access to road systems have depended on the Alaska Marine Highway System for reliable, predictable primary marine transportation service since the creation of AMHS; and

WHEREAS, ten years ago the AMHS adopted a model of *core service* that identified a minimum level of essential service required to meet the needs of the traveling public and communities; and

WHEREAS, the key element in the core service model includes one vessel providing year round service from Prince Rupert and a second vessel added to the Prince Rupert route for the months of May through September; and

WHEREAS, the seven-month Sitka Winter schedule has consisted for several years of only ONE northbound sailing and two south bounds per week; if the second Prince Rupert vessel is delayed until July, the single Rupert connection in May and June is grossly inadequate to serve Southeast Alaska.

WHEREAS: Alaska Marine Highways has better alternatives to reduce its budget by re-scheduling vessels that would not restrict core summer service so important to the economies and citizens of Southeast Alaska communities dependent on the second Prince Rupert sailing throughout the entire Summer season.

RESOLVED, that the Sitka Economic Development Association hereby strongly urges that the Alaska Marine Highway System maintain at least the minimum essential core service levels for Southeast Alaska, with one Prince Rupert and one Bellingham vessel scheduled year-round and a second Prince Rupert vessel scheduled for the entire peak season of the beginning of May through the end of September;

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Sitka Economic Development Association in accordance with its organic documents at a meeting of the Board of Directors held on 19 of August, 2013, and that said resolution appears in the record of said meeting as set forth above.

Dated this 20th day of Aug, 2013.


Richard Riggs, President

Attested by:


Nancy Davis, Secretary

**CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA
RESOLUTION NO. 2013-13**

**A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA REQUESTING
THE ALASKA MARINE HIGHWAY SYSTEM MAINTAIN CORE SERVICE LEVELS, INCLUDING
ONE PRINCE RUPERT VESSEL YEAR-ROUND AND TWO VESSELS MAY THROUGH
SEPTEMBER**

WHEREAS, Southeast Alaska coastal communities without access to road systems have depended on the Alaska Marine Highway System for reliable, predictable primary marine transportation service since the creation of AMHS; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Marine Highway System transports the region's residents, visitors, food, health care, supplies, equipment, and seafoods, providing critically important transportation and commerce links within the Region and connections to the rest of Alaska and the lower 48; and

WHEREAS, the continued expansion of the Alaska Marine Highway System to provide new and expanding routes combined with the increasing costs and decreasing revenues available to operate the System are resulting in reduced core service levels in Southeast Alaska including the layup of the Taku through June, 2014, rather than operating this second Prince Rupert vessel during May and June when demand for a second Prince Rupert vessel is at a peak; and

WHEREAS, the seven-month Sitka Winter schedule has consisted for several years of only ONE northbound sailing and two southbounds per week; if the second Prince Rupert vessel is delayed until July, the single Rupert connection in May and June is grossly inadequate to serve Southeast Alaska.

WHEREAS, Sitka is grateful the Fairweather is being repowered this winter. Sitka will heavily use the fast vehicle ferry as soon as it comes out of overhaul to increase May service to Sitka, with full Summer service required by June 1, 2014;

WHEREAS, AMHS has better alternatives to reduce its budget by re-scheduling vessels that would not restrict core summer service so critical to the economies and citizens of Southeast Alaska;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Marine Highway System maintain its essential core service levels to Southeast Alaska with one Prince Rupert and one Bellingham vessel year round and a second Prince Rupert vessel throughout the entire summer season – May through September – and if required modify non-essential vessel schedules to reduce the AMHS budget; and

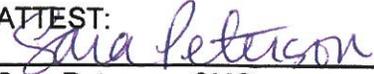
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Assembly of the City and Borough of Sitka requests a consistent, sustainable core service schedule for Southeast Alaska be developed with input from the Marine Transportation Advisory Board, Southeast Conference, and the local communities which have the greatest stake in maintaining reliable AMHS service levels.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED by the Assembly of the City and Borough of Sitka, Alaska, on this 23rd day of July, 2013.



Pete Esquiro, Deputy Mayor

ATTEST:



Sara Peterson, CMC
Acting Municipal Clerk

Southeast Conference

Resolution 14-02

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC FACILITIES RUN TWO ALASKA MARINE HIGHWAY VESSELS FROM THE PORT OF PRINCE RUPERT. ONE YEAR ROUND AND ONE RUNNING MAY THROUGH SEPTEMBER

WHEREAS: Southeast Alaska coastal communities without access to road systems have depended on the Alaska Marine Highway System for reliable, predictable primary marine transportation service since the creation of Alaska Marine Highway System; and

WHEREAS: The Alaska Marine Highway System transports the region's residents, visitors, food, health care, supplies, equipment, seafood, and other critically important transportation and commerce links both within the Region and to the rest of Alaska and the lower 48; and

WHEREAS: The continued expansion of the Alaska Marine Highway System to provide new and expanding routes combined with the increasing costs and decreasing revenues available to operate the System are resulting in reduced core service levels in Southeast Alaska including the layup of the Taku through June, 2014, rather than operating this second Prince Rupert vessel during May and June when demand for a second Prince Rupert vessel is at a peak; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: the Alaska Marine Highway System maintain its essential core service levels to Southeast Alaska with one Prince Rupert and one Bellingham vessel year round and a second Prince Rupert vessel throughout the entire summer season – May through September – and if required modify non-essential vessel schedules to reduce the Alaska Marine Highway System budget; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT: Southeast Conference supports a consistent, sustainable core service schedule for the Southeast Alaska region be developed with input from the Marine Transportation Advisory Board, Southeast Conference, and the local communities which have the greatest stake in maintaining reliable Alaska Marine Highway System service levels especially during the peak economically critical summer season.

ADOPTED BY THE SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE BOARD OF DIRECTORS ON JULY 30, 2013 AND DUE TO SUNSET ON JULY 30, 2014

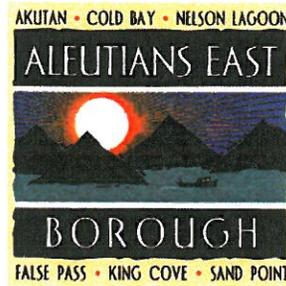
Witness:

Attest:



Tim Rooney
President
Southeast Conference

Shelly Wright
Executive Director
Southeast Conference



August 21, 2013

The Honorable Governor Sean Parnell
P.O. Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811-0001

Dear Governor Parnell,

Congratulations on the 50 Year Anniversary of the Alaska Marine Highway System. I am pleased to note that 2013 also marks 34 years of AMHS service to the Aleutian Chain. The communities of the Aleutians East Borough have come to depend on the "Trusty Tusty" M/V Tustumena for reliable transportation and transport of vehicles between our communities, and to the bigger cities of Unalaska, Kodiak, Homer and the road system.

This year has been a tough one for residents who were counting on the Tustumena's scheduled return to servicing Kodiak and the Aleutians earlier this year. Service to the Aleutians normally runs April through October, two trips a month, but so far this year there have been just two trips to the Chain by an AMHS ferry. However, in 2013 we did get to see AMHS's only other ocean going vessel, the M/V Kennicott, bound for the Aleutians for the first time.

The attached Resolution 14-01 by the Aleutians East Borough Assembly is to show our support for both the current Alaska Class Ferry project, and for a Tustumena replacement vessel to be fully funded in the FY 2015 budget. Please consider this important request for all coastal residents of the Gulf of Alaska.

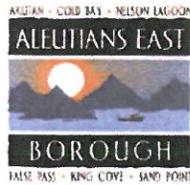
Thank you for your support. We sincerely hope to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the "Trusty Tusty" next year with you onboard an Aleutian voyage of the M/V Tustumena.

Sincerely,

Stanley Mack
Aleutians East Borough Mayor

Attachment

Cc: Senator Lyman Hoffman
Representative Bob Herron
Representative Bryce Edgmon
Marine Transportation Advisory Board



RESOLUTION 14-01

A RESOLUTION OF THE ALEUTIANS EAST BOROUGH ASSEMBLY REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR AND LEGISLATURE TO DEVELOP A LONG-TERM DEPENDABLE SOLUTION TO ENSURE FULL UNINTERRUPTED FERRY SERVICE TO THE ALEUTIANS EAST BOROUGH COMMUNITIES.

WHEREAS, the Alaska Marine Highway System vessel M/V Tustumena provides service between Homer and Kodiak, Chignik, Unalaska and the Aleutians East Borough communities of Sand Point, King Cove, Cold Bay, False Pass, Akutan; and

WHEREAS, the M/V Tustumena entered the Seward Ship's Drydock for scheduled repairs November 1, 2012 and the scheduled return to service was delayed due to unexpected steel work repairs; and

WHEREAS, Aleutians East Borough families that were relying on the ferry service for affordable transportation between communities had to use costly alternative air charter services; and

WHEREAS, residents depend on the ferry service to bring new vehicles into their community from Anchorage and for transporting vehicles back and forth for repairs and maintenance; and

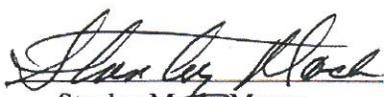
WHEREAS, a replacement ferry for the M/V Tustumena is expected to cost more than \$100 million dollars, yet the State's vessel replacement fund currently holds less than half that amount; and

WHEREAS, the Aleutians East Borough also supports the ongoing Alaska Class Ferry project to supply Southeast Alaska with two Day Boat shuttle ferries.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Aleutians East Borough Assembly formally requests that Governor Parnell and the Alaska State Legislature develop a long-term dependable solution to ensure Aleutian East Borough communities receive scheduled and uninterrupted ferry service; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Aleutians East Borough Assembly urges the Governor and Legislature to fully fund the Tustumena replacement and the Alaska Class Ferry project in the fy 2015 budget.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Aleutians East Borough on this 16th day of August, 2013.


Stanley Mack, Mayor

ATTEST: 
Tina Anderson, Clerk

CITY OF UNALASKA

P. O. BOX 610
UNALASKA, ALASKA 99685-0610
(907) 581-1251 FAX (907) 581-1417



August 1, 2013

Commissioner Patrick J. Kemp
ADOT&PF
P. O. Box 112500
3132 Channel Drive
Juneau, AK 99811-2500

Dear Governor Parnell:

Please find enclosed Resolution 2013-57, passed by the City of Unalaska City Council at its meeting on July 30, 2013. Through this resolution, the City of Unalaska expresses its support for maintaining the *M/V Tustumena* in its position at the top of Alaska's vessel replacement schedule and urging you and the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities to begin the design process of a replacement vessel as soon as possible.

The communities of the Aleutian Chain are only accessible by air and by sea. As a consequence, the *M/V Tustumena* plays a vital role in the lives of the people of the Aleutian Chain served by the ferry system. We rely heavily on it for goods and services, commerce, and transportation. The residents of Unalaska, in particular, rely on the ferry system in the summer months for transport of vehicles, for travel from one island to another, for the economic boost provided by tourism, for services like plumbing and electrical work in smaller communities, and for countless additional services.

We urge you to do all that is within your power to support our request that the *M/V Tustumena* remain at the top of the vessel replacement schedule and that DOT&PF begin the design process for a replacement vessel to serve the Aleutian Chain.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Masoni
City Clerk

Enclosure

CC: Commissioner Patrick J. Kemp, Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities
Alaska Marine Highway System
Marine Transportation Advisory Board

RECEIVED

AUG 05 2013

DOT & PF
Commissioner

CITY OF UNALASKA
UNALASKA, ALASKA

RESOLUTION 2013-57

A RESOLUTION OF THE UNALASKA CITY COUNCIL OF SUPPORT FOR MAINTAINING THE *MV TUSTUMENA* IN ITS POSITION AT THE TOP OF ALASKA'S VESSEL REPLACEMENT SCHEDULE AND URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO BEGIN THE DESIGN PROCESS OF A REPLACEMENT VESSEL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

WHEREAS, communities in the Aleutian Chain are only accessible by air and by sea; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Marine Highway System provides vital goods and services, commerce, and an essential transportation link to eleven (11) communities of the Aleutian Chain from Kodiak to Unalaska; and

WHEREAS, remote communities in the Aleutian Chain, like King Cove, Cold Bay, and Akutan, rely heavily on the ferry system for access to shopping for products like fresh produce, clothing, household goods, hardware, and vessel parts that are essential to their quality of life; and

WHEREAS, residents of smaller communities in the Aleutian Chain rely on the ferry system to take them to larger communities like Unalaska for medical and dental services that are vital to their health and well-being; and

WHEREAS, such services and shipment of goods would be prohibitively costly if residents were required to fly to Anchorage or to ship their goods by air; and

WHEREAS, communities on the Aleutian Chain rely heavily on the ferry system for commerce in that tradesmen ship, among other things, diving and welding gear, research equipment, and construction equipment from Unalaska for work in smaller communities served by the ferry system; and

WHEREAS, residents of Unalaska rely on the ferry system in the summer months for transport of vehicles, for travel from one island to another, for the economic boost provided by tourism, for services like plumbing and electrical work in smaller communities, and for countless additional services; and

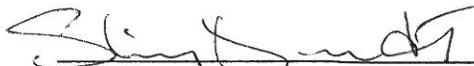
WHEREAS, the *MV Tustumena*, which has served the people of the Aleutian Chain faithfully for 49 years, has been subject to the harsh and unprotected waters of the North Pacific and Bering Sea that have accelerated the deterioration of the vessel over the years; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska legislature has appropriated \$50 million to the state's vessel replacement fund, but has not authorized spending from that fund toward another vessel to serve the Aleutian Chain;

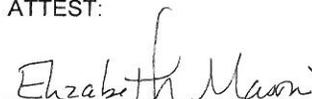
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Unalaska City Council supports maintaining the *MV Tustumena* in its current position at the top of Alaska's vessel replacement schedule;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Unalaska City Council strongly urges the Department of Transportation to begin the design process of a replacement vessel that can navigate the waters of the Aleutian Chain and accommodate its unique port requirements as soon as possible.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY A DULY CONSTITUTED QUORUM OF THE UNALASKA CITY COUNCIL THIS 30TH DAY OF JULY 2013.


MAYOR

ATTEST:


CITY CLERK





August 1, 2013

Honorable Sean Parnell, Governor
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811-0001

Re: Ferry service in Southwest Alaska

Dear Governor Parnell,

I am writing on behalf of the Southwest Alaska communities served by the Alaska Marine Highway System, specifically those that were until recently serviced by the MV Tustumena. As you well know, the communities that relied on the MV Tustumena, from Kodiak all the way out to Unalaska/Dutch Harbor, have been waiting for the vessel's return ever since its repair delays were announced back in the spring.

The Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference (SWAMC) serves the regions of the Aleutian/Pribilofs, Bristol Bay, and the Kodiak Island. Our primary interest is promoting economic development in the Southwest region, and from time to time that means having to advocate for improved transportation services to ensure our communities and businesses can operate smoothly, and residents can take advantage of a more economical movement of goods and services. For decades, the 50 year old Tustumena vessel has provided year-round service to the Kodiak area and now makes the journey out the Aleutian Chain 10 times per year. There is no question the AMHS continues to benefit the region economically.

However, the continuous setbacks to the Tustumena repair have put a serious strain on our communities and businesses this summer. Here are just a few voices of hardship and frustration that Southwest Alaska residents are experiencing over the loss of the ferry:

- *According to Discover Kodiak and the Kodiak Daily Mirror, the delay in the Tustumena's return is forcing travelers to cancel lodging and look for alternative ways to get to the island. The delays are affecting hotels, restaurants and stores that rely on the ferry for transportation and products*
- *Each run of the Tustemena heading from King Cove to Cold Bay has a minimum of 10 riders. Near the end of the summer there are a lot more ferry travelers. More people take the ferry out in late summer to Homer. Lots of newcomers visiting in the summer use the ferry; most have large families making this travel cost effective. When families move out of King Cove they use the ferry to ship their belongings and vehicles – again more cost effective and pretty much the only way you can ship a vehicle*
- *Most of the reasons that people take the Tustemena in the Aleutians is for safe and reliable transportation, a method to transport a vehicle and also to ship freight*

- *Many people ferry to medical appointments instead of flying, sometimes because their condition is not conducive to flying. Many of the elderly will take the ferry (fear of flying) to do their annual checkups*
- *Commercial fishermen and processors rely on the ferry to bring in large pieces of equipment and parts for their boats. They will also ship food supplies for their summer fishing. The ferry is less expensive than barge services*
- *There are several people (families) stranded in King Cove right now because they could only afford to travel on the ferry and now will have to work to save up enough money to buy a plane ticket to get out of King Cove. Their vehicles are also stranded in King Cove and will have to find alternative ways to get them out of the community. They may need to pay for storage for a whole year until they get service back to the chain.*
- *The manager of the Kodiak Safeway store said the delays have affected shopping for many, including people on the island's rural communities. When Port Lions and Ouzinkie were added to the Tustumena's schedule, people found a cheaper way to transport food in bulk.*
- *The owner of a Kodiak bed and breakfast says she has had seven cancellations this summer — each worth about \$1,000. She blames the Tustumena's absence for her losses. "This probably represents a tenth of my business, maybe more"*
- *"Our culture camp and summer learning activities have been affected and at times cancelled because most participants (students, educators, and volunteers) planned to use the ferry to help lower the costs of the camp."*

As you can see from these few examples provided by Southwest residents, the lack of service not only has direct economic and quality of life impacts for those living in the region; the issue also affects commerce around the state. A resident of King Cove may not buy a vehicle in Anchorage knowing what it will cost to get it out to the Aleutians without the ferry service. The same could be said of a fisherman in Chignik contemplating a new boat engine from Fairbanks. Those examples were also just the tip of the iceberg; although the Kennicott has filled in admirably for some portions of the region, and may do so again soon, unfortunately several serviced communities with smaller docks will be completely left out of the picture this year.

As we stated in SWAMC Resolution 2013-06 sent to your office in late February, design work on an ocean-class vessel that can navigate the waters of Southwest Alaska – and importantly the Aleutian Chain – and accommodate its unique port requirements needs to begin as soon as possible to accelerate the Tustumena replacement. We are somewhat heartened to hear that the design process will start this summer. The next big hurdle, however, will be to commit the funds to construct a vessel. We hope to see the Vessel Replacement Fund replenished by you and the Legislature, as it is critical to get a new ferry servicing the Southwest route as soon as feasible. We are fully aware that the State wants to tighten its belt on spending in the coming years, but as evidenced by those voices above the region is well overdue for a new vessel and the longer we delay, the sooner we see the economic and cultural ripple effects of lost service on this region.

We implore your Administration and the Department of Transportation & Public Facilities to do all you can to restore *some* level of service to affected communities with at least 1-2 trips out the Chain by October. We also ask that you work with the Legislature to fund the construction of a new replacement vessel to service Southwest Alaska.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andy Varner", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Andy Varner
Executive Director

CC: DOT&PF Commissioner Patrick Kemp
DOT&PF Deputy Commissioner Reuben Yost
AMHS General Manager Captain John Falvey
Senator Gary Stevens
Senator Lyman Hoffman
Representative Alan Austerman
Representative Bryce Edgmon
Representative Bob Herron
MTAB Chair Robert Venables

UNALASKA / PORT OF DUTCH HARBOR, CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU



P.O. BOX 545, UNALASKA, AK 99685 | WWW.UNALASKA.INFO | UNALASKACVB@GMAIL.COM | TOLL FREE (877) 581 2612 | (907) 581 2612 FAX (907) 581 2613

August 20, 2013

The Honorable Sean Parnell
Governor of Alaska
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Governor Parnell:

We are writing to you from Unalaska/International Port of Dutch Harbor to express our concerns about the Alaska Marine Highway canceling ferry service out the Aleutian Chain.

As you know, the Tustumena ferry is further delayed due to continued needed repairs. While we realize unexpected delays do happen, we would like to convey to you how distressing it is to our region to be without the AMHS ferry service.

There were only ten scheduled ferry stops for Unalaska this year. So far five sailings have been canceled due to the fact that the Tustumena is the only ferry able to get into all of the ports along the chain.

The only ferry service we had this year was April 22nd and May 31st – provided by the Kennicott, and it was pulled from its regular sailing routes in the southeast.

We have fielded calls all summer from visitors and residents that had been planning to sail here on the ferry, but had to abruptly change plans due to the cancelation of the ferry service. Many people were “stuck” on the mainland because it was far too expensive to book a flight out here. The visitors look forward to the scenic sailing route out the chain because of the beauty and the various stops made along the way.

Our residents utilize the ferry for a less expensive way to travel from our island in the summer, and to move vehicles to and from the mainland. Teachers and other residents rely on this avenue of transportation especially because of the high cost of travel to and from Unalaska. When you consider what it costs a family to travel, and perhaps move a vehicle, you can begin to understand the distress losing the ferry service causes both our residents and our visitors.

In the AMHS annual traffic volume report, it shows that the Tustumena transported almost 75,000 passengers and over 30,000 vehicles on its Southwest route in 2012. We cannot emphasize enough, how important the ferry service is to us.

The economic impact on our island is great. Our tour operators rely on summer activity to keep their businesses open year round. The loss of ferry service is a direct decrease in revenue to scheduled tours, gift shop sales, restaurant sales, vehicle rentals, hotel stays and many other area businesses that benefit from the ferry passengers coming into Unalaska.

Our concern is that while the Tustumena is on track to be put back into service, what happens when she needs to be replaced and they have no other ferry able to service the Aleutian Chain? We urge you to remember us when the transportation budget is under scrutiny, and for you to understand what a detriment it is to us and our region when half of our transportation to and from the island is taken away.

It is vital to our community to retain the ferry service and have another mode of transportation, other than flights, to and from our island.

Attached are several letters from employers, businesses, and individuals that have been personally impacted by the loss of ferry service this year.

Please help us to have access to the Alaska Marine Highway System and have another way to travel to and from our island other than the 800 mile flight to Anchorage.



Cathy Jordan
Executive Director
Unalaska/Port of Dutch Harbor
Convention & Visitors Bureau

Attachments

Cc: Senator Lyman Hoffman
Representative Bob Herron
Marine Transportation Advisory Board
Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference

Signatures listed below urge you to remember us and do everything possible to keep the Southwest Alaska ferry service intact and accessible to residents and visitors.

Sincerely,

Unalaska City School District

July 25, 2013

The Honorable Governor Sean Parnell
P.O. Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811-0001

Dear Governor Parnell,

I am writing this letter to express my concern about the cancellation of the Tustumena Ferry service to our island and neighboring communities, to make you aware of some of the ways this cancellation will have a direct impact on our school district, and to ask for your intervention to remedy the situation.

As you know, Unalaska/Dutch Harbor is not on the road system, so travel to and from the community is limited to boat and air. The ferry cancellation has caused teachers and their families to have to make significant unbudgeted changes to their travel plans, sometimes resulting in an increased cost of a few thousand dollars. They are incurring additional expenses to arrange to ship their vehicles and household goods as well.

Camp Qungaayux, the annual Aleut Culture camp has been impacted. Several Elders and students planning to attend the annual Camp Qungaayux in Unalaska in late July have had to cancel or incur significant added costs to travel by plane. Students and adults learn to understand the beautiful culture of the Unangan people and the way they respect and preserve our natural resources. This is a loss to the entire community, and specifically to our children, Native and non-Native.

Students from King Cove, Sand Point False Pass and Cold Bay travel to Unalaska in September for the Regional "Tusty Run". This event will need to be cancelled if the ferry service isn't up and running again by September.

We would appreciate your help to restore ferry service to our community as quickly as possible.
Thank you for considering this matter.

Respectfully,



John P. Conwell
Superintendent
Unalaska City School District
PO Box 570
Unalaska, AK 99685

Cc: Representative Bob Heron, Representative Bryce Edgmon, SWAMC.

July 24, 2013

Dear Governor Parnell,

I am writing to express my concerns and frustration about the situation with the Alaska Marine Highway System (AMHS) canceling ferry service between Homer and Unalaska/Dutch Harbor for the 2013 season.

I am the owner/operator of a small business, The Extra Mile Tours, out here in Unalaska. This is my 16th year of providing visitors to our beautiful island community a positive and informational tour while they are here. During those 16 years I have met the "Tusty" nearly every time it has docked here. My clients express nothing but positive experiences (except for the occasional seasickness) from the voyage and the stops along the way. It's an amazing (and less expensive) way to see this part of the state, and it is "the trip of a lifetime" to many that plan and make it out here.

Approximately 70% of my gross income for the season comes from the ferry passengers. I have already lost \$3,700.00 so far this summer and that is just in confirmed bookings that I had. This doesn't include the passengers that I usually pick up at dock when the ferry arrives, etc. In the past I have polled my clients that came and left on the ferry as to how much they spent in the few hours they were here. The average was \$200.00, including the cost of my tour. This would be at gift shops, museums, grocery stores, restaurants, etc.

I would like to express disappointment in what seems to be the State's lack of attempting to provide the area with another vessel and to the timeliness of notifying passengers of the cancelations.

Thank you for your time,

Bobbie Lekanoff

Resident and business owner in Unalaska/Dutch Harbor

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bobbie Lekanoff". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN -

I had a Round trip ticket on the Ferry From Dutch HARBOR TO Anchorage with my truck.

I called the Ferry two days before I got an email - I was told it was still running out to Dutch. Then I got an email saying it was canceled.

I already bought an ATV, groceries etc. Now I have to pay for a Round trip Airline ticket, Cargo costs for the ATV, and groceries.

It is a huge costs for me and my family to be without the Ferry service, and to make new plans for all our stuff and tickets.

Please help us out here in Dutch Harbor.

Jose Lopez
JOSE LOPEZ