



Alaska Association of Student Governments

Resolution # 10

The State of Alaska to continue to fund the Alaska Marine Highway System

Submitted by: Marirose Evenden

Submitted: April 10, 2019

Be it resolved by the Alaska Association of Student Governments that:

- 1. Whereas,** Governor Dunleavy's proposed budget would cut the Alaska Marine Highway Systems budget by almost 75 percent;⁴
- 2. Whereas,** under Governor Dunleavy's proposed budget, state ferries service isn't scheduled after October 1st 2019;¹
- 3. Whereas,** the state ferry system services 35 communities across Southeast, Southcentral, and Southwest Alaska;²
- 4. Whereas,** for many of these communities the ferry is the primary mode of transportation throughout the region;
- 5. Whereas,** planes can be the only other transportation in and out of these communities and are often unable to fly due to weather;
- 6. Whereas,** schools across the regions that are served rely on the ferry system for sports and activity travel;
- 7. Whereas,** extracurricular activities have a direct correlation with graduation and academic performance rates;⁵
- 8. Whereas,** Juneau, our state capital, is not connected to the road system;

9. Whereas, Alaska DOT&PF mission and purpose is to "Keep Alaska Moving through service and infrastructure;"³

10. Whereas, part of Alaska DOT&PF vision is to "[move] beyond Alaska's challenges while meeting Alaskans' distinct transportation needs;"³

11. Whereas, public testimony at the Transportation Committee hearing was overwhelmingly in favor of continued funding for the AMHS;⁴

12. Whereas, 283 people signed up to testify which is "the most recorded since the state began tracking the volume in 2016;"⁸

13. Whereas, the ferry system supports small communities with medical care when flying is not an option;

14. Whereas, the AMHS supports 350,000 people and 100,000 vehicles per year;⁶

15. Whereas, only five of Alaska's thirty-five ferry ports are connected to the road system;⁶

16. Whereas, public testimony stated that schools and families find the ferry a cheaper and more sustainable form of transportation;⁷

Therefore, be it resolved by the Alaska Association of Student Governments supports that funding should be continued for the Alaska Marine Highway System.

Action Statement: This resolution if approved by the General Assembly of the Alaska Association of Student Governments, will be sent to:

- Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811-0001
- Alaska State Legislature – Senate, House Finance Committee

Sources:

1. "Port Communities | Alaska Marine Highway System." *Dot.state.ak.us*. N. p., 2019. Web. 10 Apr. 2019.

<<http://www.dot.state.ak.us/amhs/communities.shtml>>

2. Maguire, Sean. "Alaska Marine Highway System Not Scheduling Services Past Oct. 1." *Ktuu.com*. N. p., 2019. Web. 10 Apr. 2019.

<<https://www.ktuu.com/content/news/Alaska-Marine-Highway-System-not-scheduling-services-past-Oct-1--506118511.html>>

3. ©Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, all rights reserved. "Transportation & Public Facilities, State Of Alaska." *Dot.alaska.gov*. N. p., 2019. Web. 10 Apr. 2019.

<<http://dot.alaska.gov/>>

4. Minemyer, Derek. "Public Testimony Overwhelmingly Opposed To AMHS Cuts." Ktuu.com. N. p., 2019. Web. 10 Apr. 2019.

<<https://www.ktuu.com/content/news/Big-turnout-for-public-testimony-on-proposed-cuts-to-Marine-Highway-System-507077451.html>>

5. "Extracurriculars Boost High School Graduation Rates | Newswise: News For Journalists." Newswise.com. N. p., 2019. Web. 10 Apr. 2019.

<<https://www.newswise.com/articles/extracurriculars-boost-high-school-graduation-rates>>

6. Coppock, M. "Alaska's cherished ferry system is on the chopping block as oil revenues decline." latimes.com. N. p., 2019. Web. 10 Apr. 2019.

<<https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.latimes.com/nation/la-na-alaska-ferries-20190301-story.html%3foutputType=amp>>

7. Thole, Mary. Public Testimony. 12 March 2019.

8. "Alaska State Ferry Supporters Come Out In Force - Alaska Public Media." Alaska Public Media. N. p., 2019. Web. 10 Apr. 2019.

<<https://www.alaskapublic.org/2019/03/13/alaska-state-ferry-supporters-come-out-in-force/>>

Passed unanimously by the 2019 Spring Conference GA at Bethel Regional High School

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kyle Hasse', written over a horizontal line.

AASG Vice President, Kyle Hasse

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Denise Greene-Wilkinson', written over a horizontal line.

AASG Executive Director, Denise Greene-Wilkinson