

Presented by: The Manager
Introduced: 03/18/2002
Drafted by: J.R. Corso

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA

Serial No. 2149

**A Resolution Urging the Alaska Legislature to Fully Fund the
Alaska Marine Highway System.**

WHEREAS, the Alaska Marine Highway System is the most effective and successful surface transportation system linking interior Alaska to coastal Alaska and the world, and

WHEREAS, state ferries deliver people, food, health care, supplies, and equipment to coastal communities throughout the state, with direct and indirect economic impacts far beyond Southeast Alaska, and

Whereas, more than 350,000 passengers and 100,000 vehicles were carried on the AMHS in 2000, and

WHEREAS, AMHS is the jewel in the crown of state tourism assets, transporting 150,000 visitors each summer, each of whom stays an average of 20 days - twice as long as the average visitor, and

WHEREAS, in 1999, ferry passengers were a major component of statewide tourism, with 69,000 Marine Highway visitors spending \$10.7 million in Anchorage, 36,000 visitors spending \$13.5 million in Fairbanks, and 26,000 spending \$12 million on the Kenai Peninsula, and

WHEREAS, Alaska cannot afford to neglect its transportation infrastructure, but while ferry operational costs have been rising over the past decade, general fund subsidy for the Alaska Marine Highway System has continually been reduced, and

WHEREAS, to stay fully operational in Fiscal Year 2003 the System needs full funding of both the Fiscal year 2002 Supplemental and the Fiscal Year 2003 subsidy, and

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WHEREAS, to help reduce future AMHS costs it will be necessary to implement the Southeast Transportation Plan, which calls for "fast ferries" which require less time on the water, allow daytime schedules, dramatically increase ridership, and reduce personnel costs, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA:

Section 1. The Assembly of the City and Borough of Juneau submits that maintaining and improving the Alaska Marine Highway System will preserve and protect the state and regional economies, provide a symbol of hope for the future, and strengthen the entire Alaska transportation system.

Section 2. The Assembly respectfully requests that the 22nd Alaska Legislature fully fund the Fiscal Year 2002 Alaska Marine Highway System Supplemental Request and the Fiscal Year 2003 subsidy request.

Section 3. The Assembly respectfully requests that the Legislature provide for fast ferries to be funded either through Federal Highway Administration Grant Anticipation Revenue Vehicle (GARVEE) bonds or other instruments employing state bonding capacity.

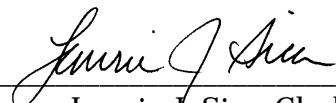
Section 4. Effective Date. This resolution shall be effective immediately upon adoption.

Adopted this 18th day of March, 2002.



Sally Smith, Mayor

Attest:



Laurie J. Sica, Clerk