

Presented by: The Manager
Introduced: 09/09/2013
Drafted by: A. G. Mead

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA

Serial No. 2661

A Resolution Requesting the Alaska Marine Highway System to Maintain Core Service Levels, to Include One Prince Rupert Vessel Year-Round and Two Vessels May Through September.

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

WHEREAS, the Alaska Marine Highway System transports the region's residents, visitors, food, health care supplies, equipment, and seafood, providing critically important transportation and commerce links within the region and to the rest of Alaska and the lower 48 states; 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 AMHS, are resulting in reduced core service levels in Southeast Alaska, including the lay-up of the second Prince Rupert vessel, the M/V Taku, in May and June of 2014, instead of operating it during May and June when demand is at a peak; and

WHEREAS, if the second Prince Rupert vessel is delayed until July, the single Prince Rupert connection in May and June will be grossly inadequate to serve Southeast Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the City and Borough of Juneau is grateful the M/V Fairweather is being repowered this winter, and the community will rely on the fast vehicle ferry as soon as it comes out of overhaul to increase ferry service beginning in May 2014.

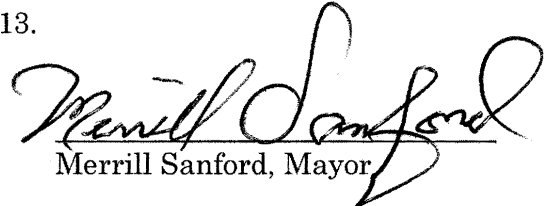
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA:

Section 1. The City and Borough urges the Alaska Marine Highway System to maintain its essential core service levels to Southeast Alaska with one Prince Rupert vessel and one Bellingham vessel in operation year-round and a second Prince Rupert vessel operating throughout the entire summer season, May through September, and if required, modify non-essential vessel schedules to reduce the AMHS budget.

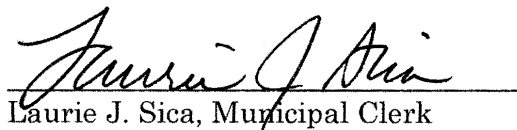
Section 2. That the Assembly of the City and Borough of Juneau requests that a consistent and sustainable core service schedule be developed for Southeast Alaska, with input from the Marine Transportation Advisory Board, Southeast Conference, and the local communities that have the greatest stake in maintaining reliable AMHS service levels.

Section 3. Effective Date. This resolution shall be effective immediately upon adoption.

Adopted this 9th day of September, 2013.


Merrill Sanford, Mayor

Attest:


Laurie J. Sica, Municipal Clerk