



Board Resolution 15-06

A Resolution of the SWAMC Membership Supporting the Strategic Reduction of Funding for the Alaska Marine Highway System

WHEREAS, the Alaska Marine Highway System (AMHS) provides a vital transportation link for goods and services to the 11 serviced communities of Southwest Alaska, stretching from Kodiak Island to Unalaska with stops along the Aleutian Chain, affecting the economic viability of communities; and

WHEREAS, the AMHS serves as the only highway to coastal Alaska including Kodiak Island, the Alaska Peninsula, and Aleutian Chain for a total of over 3,500 lane miles served and provides a steady flow of travelers and commerce to the Railbelt communities; and

WHEREAS, reliable and affordable transportation into and out of communities in the SWAMC region is vital to economic sustainability and growth that provides good jobs capable of supporting families and communities; and

WHEREAS, many Alaskan businesses rely on the established, published summer schedule for their livelihood for the transportation of perishable goods and other commerce; and

WHEREAS, SWAMC recognizes the dramatic reductions in revenue for the State of Alaska that is creating a funding gap for State supported services like the AMHS; and

WHEREAS, SWAMC knows that funding reductions for the AMHS is necessary and was reflected in the revised budget submitted to the Alaska State Legislature and was furthered reduced by the House Finance subcommittee close-out of the AMHS budget calling for additional cuts that further reduces service and back-up capability as ferries are pulled for service, repairs and maintenance; and

WHEREAS, the Marine Transportation Advisory Board (MTAB) has a legislative mandate to produce a strategic operating plan with the AMHS for service provided to coastal Alaska communities.

NOW BE IT RESOLVED that the SWAMC Board of Directors urge the Legislature to restore funding for the currently published summer schedule and allow further cuts to be developed strategically by AMHS in consultation with the communities and MTAB to achieve the necessary cuts in service beginning with the next round of published schedules this fall.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference Board this 3rd Day of March, 2015.

IN WITNESS THERETO:

ATTEST:

Alice Ruby, SWAMC President

Doug Griffin, Executive Director