



**MEMBERSHIP RESOLUTION FY18-05**

**A RESOLUTION BY THE SOUTHWEST ALASKA MUNICIPAL CONFERENCE MEMBERSHIP SUPPORTING THE GOVERNOR’S PROPOSED FY19 ALASKA MARINE HIGHWAY SYSTEM OPERATING BUDGET AND SUPPORTING FORWARD FUNDING FOR THE ALASKA MARINE HIGHWAY SYSTEM**

**WHEREAS**, forward funding would allow predictability and be positive in generating revenue for the AMHS; and

**WHEREAS**, the Alaska Marine Highway System (AMHS) has been providing essential transportation to Alaska’s coastal communities since 1963; and

**WHEREAS**, the AMHS has 11 vessels that serve 33 Alaskan communities stretching from Metlakatla to Unalaska, including service to Kodiak Island; and

**WHEREAS**, the AMHS accounted for 1,700 Alaska jobs in 44 different communities and \$104 million in Alaska wages in 2014; and

**WHEREAS**, the AMHS carried 319,000 passengers, 108,000 vehicles, and 4,000 container vans in 2014; and

**WHEREAS**, the AMHS is vital for coastal Alaskan communities, particularly those that are not located on the State’s road system; and

**WHEREAS**, the AMHS has already sustained significant funding reductions that have reduced service throughout the system; and

**WHEREAS**, further reductions in the AMHS will harm tourism, commerce, economic development, and quality of life for nearly 100,000 Alaskans; and

**WHEREAS**, the Southeast Conference is completing an AMHS Strategic Plan to recommend changes in the way the AMHS is structured and managed to provide system services without increasing State contributions.

**NOW BE IT RESOLVED** that the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference Membership supports the Governor’s proposed FY19 AMHS operating budget to maintain present service to the communities served along Alaska’s coast pending completion of the AMHS Strategic Plan and the forward funding of the AMHS.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference Membership this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of March 2018.

IN WITNESS THERETO:

ATTEST:

Rebecca Skinner, SWAMC President

Doug Griffin, SWAMC Executive Director