



MEMBERSHIP RESOLUTION FY20-02

A RESOLUTION BY THE SOUTHWEST ALASKA MUNICIPAL CONFERENCE MEMBERSHIP SUPPORTING THE FUNDING OF THE ALASKA MARINE HIGHWAY SYSTEM OPERATING BUDGET AT SUSTAINABLE LEVELS UNTIL REFORM RECOMMENDATIONS ARE ENACTED AND MAINTAINING FUNDING FOR REPLACEMENT OF THE M/V TUSTUMENA

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

WHEREAS, currently the AMHS has 10 vessels that serve 33 Alaskan communities stretching from Metlakatla to Unalaska, including service to Kodiak Island; and

WHEREAS, the AMHS is vital for the economic health of 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 drastically reduced service throughout the system, and jeopardized the ability of AMHS to put ships back into service this spring; and

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

WHEREAS, An AMHS Re-shaping Committee has been formed to recommend changes in the way the AMHS is structured and managed in order to continue to provide critical services to thousands of coastal Alaskans; and

WHEREAS, cuts that lead to discontinuation or major disruption of AMHS service prior to completion of the AMHS Re-shaping Committee's work will do significant damage to rural communities, governments, schools, and businesses that have few transportation alternatives.

NOW BE IT RESOLVED that the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference Membership supports sustainable operational and maintenance funding for the AMHS for FY21 and beyond as the Re-shaping Committee does its due diligence, and the continued pursuit for the already federally funded and designed replacement for the TUSTUMENA which is operating well beyond its intended life.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any newly formed governing board for the AMHS include a representative from the Southwest Alaska region.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference Membership this 6th day of March 2020.

IN WITNESS THERETO:



Mary Swain, SWAMC Board President



Shirley Marquardt, SWAMC Executive Director