



## MEMBERSHIP RESOLUTION FY21-04

### **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 a reduced fleet of 7 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, put five vessels in long-term lay-up, and jeopardized the ability of AMHS to put the remaining 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**, The AMHS Re-shaping Committee fulfilled their responsibility in late 2020 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 the implementation of elements of the AMHS Re-shaping Committee's final plan 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 FY22 and beyond as the Legislature and Administration analyze and review the work of the committee, and the continued pursuit for the already federally funded and designed replacement for the TUSTUMENA which is operating well beyond its intended life.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference Membership this 5th day of March 2021.

IN WITNESS THERETO:



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Mary Swain, SWAMC Board President



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Shirley Marquardt, SWAMC Executive Director