

MUNICIPALITY OF SKAGWAY, ALASKA

RESOLUTION NO. 09-21R

A RESOLUTION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF SKAGWAY, ALASKA SUPPORTING FEDERAL LEGISLATION INTRODUCED AS THE US FERRY SYSTEM INVESTMENT ACT (HR 2172, S930).

WHEREAS, The Municipality of Skagway depends on the Alaska Marine Highway System (AMHS) as its most dependable transportation link to the Capital City of Juneau; and

WHEREAS, AMHS has seen tremendous growth since its inception in 1963 and is a virtual lifeline for access to critical medical care, school events, commerce, and job opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska has more ocean coastline than the entire continental U.S. including the Alexander Archipelago, Kodiak Island and the Aleutian Chain which are home to many native villages and Alaskan Communities dependent on marine transportation for basic essential services including heating fuel, food, building materials, and all aspect of commerce; and

WHEREAS, AMHS was recently ranked as one of the top ten ferry rides in the world allowing visitors from all over the world an opportunity to see the beauty of coastal Alaska; and

WHEREAS, The AMHS fleet of 11 vessels serves over 30 coastal communities with several vessels that are over 30 years old and are becoming difficult and costly to safely maintain and repair; and

WHEREAS, AMHS has begun the process to design and build the next generation of "Alaska Class" vessels meant to provide safe, reliable, and efficient service for the next 30 years replacing some of its oldest ferries; and

WHEREAS, Preliminary information provided by the Alaska Department of Transportation indicates that building three of these new vessels will cost the same amount of money it would take to maintain two of the older vessels during the lifespan of the new ferries; and

WHEREAS, The US Ferry Systems Investment Act is a critical piece of Federal Legislation not only to Alaska but also Washington State which faces similar issues with its aging vessels and marine transportation needs; and

WHEREAS, Working together with the Alaska and Washington Delegation to pass this vital legislation is essential to the continued health of our closely linked communities and their transportation corridors;

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PAGE 2 OF 2**

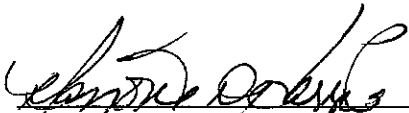
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Municipal Assembly of the Municipality of Skagway hereby supports your efforts in moving the US Ferry Systems Act forward and that hearings on this legislation take place in both Alaska and Washington in order to better educate your fellow legislators on the unique characteristics of our marine dependent states and their benefits to the nation.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 21st day of May, 2009 by the Assembly of the Municipality of Skagway, Alaska.



Thomas D. Cochran, Mayor

ATTEST:



Marjorie D. Harris
Municipal Clerk

(SEAL)

