



Haines Chamber of Commerce 12C

"Working Together to Build Business & Community"

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November 5, 2019

Mary Siroky, Deputy Commissioner, Alaska Department of Transportation
Captain John Falvey, General Manager, AMHS

Dear Deputy Commissioner Siroky and Capt. Falvey:

The Alaska State Chamber of Commerce recently adopted support for AMHS as a "critical component of the statewide intermodal transportation system and economy of Alaska" into its annual policy forum for advocacy. As the Executive Director of the Haines Chamber of Commerce and co-sponsor of this policy position, I am elated that the voice of the Alaska business community is now echoing support for our coastal communities impacted by Statewide budget cuts to the ferry system. Despite this good news, it is unfortunate to learn of further reduction in service for the community of Haines due to unexpected costs associated with repairs to the F/V LeConte.

As you are aware, *any* reduction in service will greatly impact a coastal community's access to safe and reliable transportation, and our quality of life including social, educational, and health needs, and the overall well-being of our economy. The Haines Chamber is deeply concerned for our community's reduction to weekly ferry service and the impacts that will burden so many residents and businesses in Haines.

I wholeheartedly appreciate your efforts to "Keep Alaska Moving through service and infrastructure" during this time of financial crisis for AMHS and would like to propose a solution that will minimize the impacts to our local economy and community:

In your exploration of alternative options, please consider bringing the Tazlina back online to service Haines and Skagway. The Tazlina is currently scheduled to fix repairs to its side doors in order to be fully operational for the summer season. Since these repairs are not critical maintenance items required to service Haines and Skagway, please consider bringing this vessel back online to service our communities utilizing operating funds that were set aside for the F/V LeConte. This will fill the void of much needed service while repairs are being assessed on the F/V LeConte and the Aurora that will require much more critical maintenance.

Thank you so much for being a lifeline and critical component of our Statewide economy.

Tracey Harmon

Tracey Harmon
Executive Director
Haines Chamber of Commerce