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October 31, 2019

Mary Siroky, Deputy Commissioner
State of Alaska
Dept. of Transportation & Public Facilities
PO Box 112500
Juneau, AK 99811-2500
mary.siroky@alaska.gov

Re: Marine transportation in the Lynn Canal

Dear Deputy Commissioner Siroky:

We are alarmed by the notice that F/V LeConte is being removed from service November, December and January.

If it were 1960, we could accept that ferry service meant once per week, because that is what it was. In the sixty years since the launch of the MV Chilkat, the fleet has included 35 vessels; twelve are currently serviceable. With eight vessels assigned to Southeast Alaska it seems hardly imaginable that we cannot find a vessel to service the Lynn Canal.

We have learned that the F/V Tazlina is currently scheduled for dry dock to be refurbished with side doors. This is a capital project, not a maintenance project. We respectfully request that you consider that the side door project has a lesser priority than transportation service to the residents of the Lynn Canal. We respectfully request that the side door project be rescheduled and the Tazlina be put into service in the Lynn Canal for the term that the F/V Le Conte is out of service for maintenance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jan Hill".

Mayor Jan Hill
Haines Borough