



Greater Juneau Chamber of Commerce

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March 13, 2020

The Honorable Michael J. Dunleavy, Governor
State of Alaska
PO Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811-001

John MacKinnon, Commissioner
Department of Transportation & Public Facilities
PO Box 112500
Juneau, AK 99811-2500

Re: Ferry Service to Southeast Communities

Governor Dunleavy and Commissioner MacKinnon:

The business community in Juneau was excited to see people put into leadership positions who understand life in rural Alaska. Living off the road system provides a unique set of challenges and the need for extra logistics to provide for everyday life.

Today we are concerned with your administration's lack of response to provide basic transportation needs for Juneau and the surrounding communities. This has created a crisis in the communities that depend on the Alaska Marine Highway System.

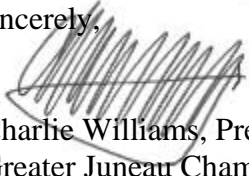
The Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities has issued contracts with Allen Marine and Goldbelt Inc. to provide basic commercial ferry service to communities, but many of these still go unserved. We have to ask why these contracts haven't been fully implemented?

We call on you utilize the private sector contracts to service to Southeast communities until such time as the Alaska Marine Highway System can provide a reliable level of service. When residents know there will be a sailing once a week, or once every two weeks, families and businesses can plan for goods and services to be provided at a reasonable cost.

The supply situation has been exacerbated with the COVID-19 pandemic and it is critical to provide all residents with basic transportation services.

The business community is counting on you to take action and lead through this difficult time. We encourage you to give people the tools and opportunity to help themselves.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Charlie Williams', is written over a circular stamp or seal that is mostly obscured by the scribbles of the signature.

Charlie Williams, President
Greater Juneau Chamber of Commerce

cc: Ben Stevens, Chief of Staff
Deputy Commissioner Mary Siroky DOT & PF
Senator Jesse Kiehl
Representative Andi Story
Representative Sara Hannan