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January 28, 2020

Michael J. Dunleavy  
Governor of Alaska  
State Capitol Building  
PO Box 110001  
Juneau, Alaska 99811-001

*sent via email*

RE: Cascade Ferry Terminal / Juneau Access

Dear Governor:

We have reviewed the Northern Economics *Draft: Reshaping the Alaska Marine Highway System* prepared for Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities dated January 2020. There are many suggestions for improving the operation of the Alaska Marine Highway System including structure, operations, financing and terminals. However, we would highlight option 11A.

**“Option 11A:** *Development of a ferry terminal at Cascade Point on Berners Bay at the northern end of the Glacier Highway approximately 30 miles north of the current Auke Bay Terminal in Juneau. The Cascade Point terminal would serve as [sic] the base for dedicated ferry runs in Lynn Canal and reduce Juneau–Haines and Juneau–Skagway one-way sailing times by approximately 2.1 hours.*” (Page 110)

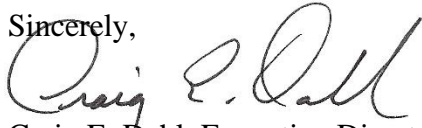
Based on the assessment, the study team provided the following recommendation:

**“7.** *Consider additional infrastructure to reduce operational costs. State investments in infrastructure are typically able to leverage much larger levels of federal funding. Examples include a) development of the terminal at Cascade Point; b) development of the road to Warm Spring Bay with a terminal; c) development of the road between Kake and Wrangell Narrows.*” (Page 121)

The savings estimate for AMHS operating ferries for Lynn Canal service using the same parameters as Option 3A, except from a new terminal at Cascade Point, could be \$67,724,000. (Page 119)

We believe it is time to begin construction of the Cascade Point ferry terminal and the road to that terminal. It will extend the road access from Juneau closer to the continental road system while providing significant savings to the Alaska Marine Highway System. Directing the DOT&PF to begin and complete this project is an important initiative. Not only will it create critical jobs for Alaskans, it will be a lasting positive legacy for Alaska.

Sincerely,



Craig E. Dahl, Executive Director  
The Greater Juneau Chamber of Commerce

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