



Whatcom County

COUNTY COURTHOUSE
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Agenda Bill Master Report

File Number: AB2019-191

File ID:	AB2019-191	Version:	1	Status:	Approved
File Created:	03/20/2019	Entered by:	MEngels@co.whatcom.wa.us		
Department:	Council Office	File Type:	Resolution		
First Assigned to:	Council Finance and Administrative Services Committee				
Agenda Date:	03/26/2019	Next Mtg. Date:		Hearing Date:	

Primary Contact Email: ssidhu@co.whatcom.wa.us

TITLE FOR AGENDA ITEM:

Resolution in support of retaining the Alaska Marine Highway System between Bellingham and Alaska destinations

SUMMARY STATEMENT OR LEGAL NOTICE LANGUAGE:

See resolution

HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE FILE

Date:	Acting Body:	Action:	Sent To:
03/26/2019	Council Finance and Administrative Services Committee	RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL	
03/26/2019	Council	APPROVED	

Attachments: Alaska Marine Highway Resolution.docx

Final Action: 03/26/2019
Enactment Date: 03/26/2019
Enactment #: RES 2019-018

RESOLUTION NO. 2019-018

**IN SUPPORT OF RETAINING THE ALASKA MARINE HIGHWAY SYSTEM BETWEEN
BELLINGHAM AND ALASKA DESTINATIONS**

WHEREAS, the Alaska Marine Highway System ferry has been the only marine link between the contiguous 48 states and the State of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the Port of Bellingham has been the southern terminus of the Alaska Marine Highway System (AMHS) since 1989; and

WHEREAS, the Port built the Bellingham Cruise Terminal for \$10.3 million to handle ferry traffic; and

WHEREAS, AMHS provides essential services to many coastal Alaskan communities which have no surface highway access; and

WHEREAS, a large number of residents of coastal Alaskan communities use the AMHS to access the healthcare and urgent medical services in Bellingham and Seattle while air travel is either not available or prohibitively expensive; and

WHEREAS, the loss of AMHS will impact many regional and cultural events such as SE Alaska State fair (Haines), Celebrations Juneau, and the Copper River Wild Salmon Festival Cordova, by limiting the participation of residents in these coastal communities; and

WHEREAS, the loss of AMHS will limit the opportunities for students to attend and compete in sporting events, leadership training and other school activities; and

WHEREAS, the loss of AMHS will result in less out of state tourism spending, impacting the local small businesses; and

WHEREAS, the AMHS has the same importance as other interstate highway systems in the lower 48 states for transportation and accessibility to other states and communities for residents of coastal Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the AMHS supports numerous direct and indirect family wage jobs not only in Bellingham but also in many coastal communities in Alaska; and

WHEREAS, small business owners of Alaska and Washington state will be affected most by the loss of the AMHS to transport their goods and equipment to and from Alaska to support business and commerce in Alaska and the Bellingham area; and.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Whatcom County Council, on this 26th day of March, 2019, do hereby ask and authorize the Council Chair to write letters of support on behalf of residents of Whatcom County to the Governor of the State of Alaska, the Alaska State Assembly Speaker and the Alaska State Senate President for continuing year-round AMHS services

APPROVED, this 26th day of March, 2019.

ATTEST:




Dana Brown-Davis, Clerk of the Council



WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Rud Browne, Council Chair

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Civil Deputy Prosecutor