



SOUTHEAST SENIOR SERVICES

August 14, 2012

Mr. Chairman and Assembly Members, thank you for the opportunity to speak tonight in favor of the FY13 budget amendment originated by Mayor Scott. My name is Marianne Mills and I am the Program Director for Southeast Senior Services which operates senior nutrition and transportation services through a network of senior centers throughout Southeast Alaska. I am joined tonight by Leslie Whittington, Manager/Cook of the Haines Senior Center, and Kristy Legassie, Assistant Manager and Mobility Manager.

The nutrition and transportation services which Leslie, Kristy, and the rest of the staff provide help local seniors maintain their health, safety, and quality of life for as long as possible. Southeast Senior Services has been providing these services for Haines and Klukwan seniors since 1976 and, considering that Haines has one of the fastest growing senior populations in the state and the nation, we intend to continue to provide these valuable services far into the future.

Most of the funding for these services comes from the state and federal government, however only enough funding is currently available to offer meals three days a week. The Mayor's request of a \$15,000 supplemental appropriation to Southeast Senior Services will allow us to restore the Haines senior meal program to four days a week. \$10,830 of this will be used for wages for the Cook, Kitchen Aide, and Driver to deliver meals; \$3,920 will be used to purchase the food and \$250 will be used for home delivered meal trays.

I respectfully request this appropriation so that the staff may offer local seniors nutritious meals four days a week. Thank you for your consideration of my request.

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