

**A RESOLUTION OF THE HAINES BOROUGH ASSEMBLY SUPPORTING THE
CURRENT MEMBERSHIP CONFIGURATION OF THE ALASKA MARINE
HIGHWAY OPERATIONS BOARD**

WHEREAS, the Alaska Marine Highway System strived to serve a wide range of Alaskans and visitors with reliable marine transportation service throughout coastal Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the users of the Alaska Marine Highway System represent divergent interests, including educational, recreational, commercial, and industrial transportation needs statewide; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Marine Highway Operations Board (operations board) is vital for representing to the State of Alaska the wide range of ferry system users and their concerns; and

WHEREAS, the operations board must necessarily represent a balance of representatives and perspectives, just as the ferry system itself must balance a variety of public demands; and

WHEREAS, the current composition of the operations board, including appointment of 4 of 9 board seats by the Senate president and House speaker, ensures that the state hears a diversity of opinion on best practices and procedures; and

WHEREAS, an advisory board representing only a monolithic point of view would by its nature preclude the range of opinion necessary for making fully informed decisions; and

WHEREAS, monolithic decision-making has led to historic missteps in ferry system management; and

WHEREAS, Alaska Governor Michael Dunleavy has issued Executive Order #131, making the governor the sole decider of board membership; and

WHEREAS, Governor Dunleavy's action would tend to limit the full range of perspectives necessary for robust and broad consideration of issues facing the ferry system, thereby impairing decision-making;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Haines Borough Assembly supports the current membership configuration of the Alaska Marine Highway Operations Board, including four members appointed by members of the Alaska Legislature.

Adopted by a duly-constituted quorum of the Haines Borough Assembly on this 27th day of February, 2024.

Attest:


Alekka Fullerton, MMC, Borough Clerk


Thomas C. Morphet, Mayor

