



May 13, 2020

The Honorable Michael J. Dunleavy  
Governor of Alaska  
State Capitol Building  
PO Box 110001  
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0001

*Coalition Directors:  
Tom Williams  
Wayne Coogan, Coogan Construction  
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Roger Calloway, Reliable Transfer  
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Dave Hanna, AK Concrete*

## **CALL FOR ACTION ON CASCADE POINT FERRY TERMINAL**

Dear Governor Dunleavy,

We respectfully request that you direct the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOTPF) to immediately sign a lease with Goldbelt and begin the design and construction of a Cascade Point ferry terminal.

### **This project ...**

- has been thoroughly studied and recommended yet the state has failed to expeditiously move it forward;
- is an essential part of creating a more sustainable Alaska Marine Highway System (AMHS);
- has already been funded with \$42 million in appropriations;
- is construction-ready with only a minor permit modification needed;
- will create over 75 direct and indirect construction jobs from 2020 through 2022;
- reduces the Lynn Canal round-trip to under 12 hours/day, saving AMHS at least \$15 million over 10 years;
- will increase Lynn Canal ferry ridership, increasing AMHS revenues (Northern Economics report, p111);
- enhances Skagway-Haines-Juneau ferry service for dramatically improved user satisfaction;
- decongests the existing Auke Bay terminal allowing for better service to other Southeast communities;
- supports your “Open Alaska Responsibly” policy;
- fulfills your campaign promise of better capital access for all Alaskans;
- allows local mines and industry to hire more Alaskans from Haines, Skagway, and other locales who depend upon an efficient Lynn Canal transportation system;
- assists in opening areas of Juneau Borough for planned electric, internet, and cellular services; and
- will attract additional private investment which always follows government infrastructure development.

**This project is supported by** business, labor and a wide range of political perspectives, including:

- ✓ the Juneau Chamber of Commerce (JCC);
- ✓ First Things First Alaska;
- ✓ Sen. Jessie Kiehl, District Q (comments, May 7, 2020 JCC luncheon);
- ✓ Rep. Andi Story, District 34;
- ✓ Lynn Canal communities of Haines, Skagway, and Juneau vis-à-vis their current comprehensive plans and public support for faster, more dependable ferry service; and
- ✓ the International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 302.

**Your action is time-critical.** We recognize you appointed an AMHS restructuring taskforce. Ordinarily, we would want to wait for its recommendations. However, this project has been studied extensively in the

context of the entire AMHS system and it clearly enhances the entire system. We should not wait for the committee's obvious agreement. It is unimaginable the taskforce will choose to overturn all the previous and expensive research supporting this project. Moreover, the funding for this project is likely to be targeted for re-appropriation by legislators scrambling to react to the impacts of the oil price collapse and the COVID19 pandemic.

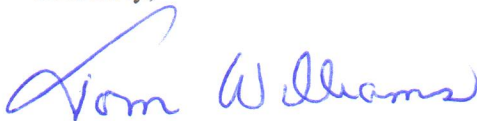
We appreciate the integrity and leadership you have demonstrated by adhering to your campaign promises. Circumstances once again require your leadership and immediate action. To recap, this project has been thoroughly studied, it is an essential part of creating a more sustainable AMHS, funding is in place, Goldbelt is a willing partner, it is supported across the political spectrum and it lives up to your campaign platform. More importantly, this project benefits Alaskans by providing immediate jobs and will improve access to Alaska's capital for all Alaskans for generations to come. Please don't make a mistake similar to those of your predecessors by failing to take action on an important project that can and should be accomplished without further delay.

**Call to Action**

We specifically request you direct your staff and the DOTPF to take all steps necessary to see this project built and put in service as quickly as possible.

Access Alaska Coalition members are available to meet with you at your convenience should you wish to further discuss the benefits and the need for your action. Thank you and we look forward to your favorable decision and timely action.

Sincerely,



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for Access Alaska Coalition



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*Attachments*

- Juneau Chamber of Commerce Letter, January 28, 2020*
- First Things First Memorandum regarding Cascade Point, June 13, 2019*
- International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 302 Letter, May 12, 2020*
- Alaska DOTPF Cascade Pt. Ferry Terminal Memo, February 14, 2020*
- DOT Cascade Pt. Ferry Terminal Conceptual Design Study Memo, March 26, 2019*

Also see at [http://dot.alaska.gov/project\\_info/](http://dot.alaska.gov/project_info/):

*Reshaping the Alaska Marine Highway System, Northern Economics, January 2020*