

SB 74

Karen Platt <Karen.Platt@gustavus-ak.gov>

Wed 2/10/2021 11:10 AM

To:

- Mayor <mayor@gustavus-ak.gov>;
- Joe Vanderzanden <joe.vanderzanden@gustavus-ak.gov>

Below is a letter to Sen Kiehl from part time resident Wayne Fleek. I was cc'd in the letter and the mayor asked me to pass this on to the rest of the council.

wayne fleek <juneauguy@rocketmail.com>

Fri 2/5/2021 5:02 PM

To: sen.jessie.kiehl@akleg.gov

Please amend SB 74 \$150,000 to fund a contract for a study, through AKDOT, for preliminary research & design for a small boat harbor for Gustavus

Gustavus is probably the only coastal city in Southeast Alaska, if not the entire State, without a small boat harbor. It has no protected marine facility of any kind and probably has a small boat fleet of 200, nearly a boat for every 2 people. Currently most boats, are forced to launch from a single boat ramp 1/2 mile up the Salmon River, which is only available for use at a minimum of half tide or higher. Both commercial and pleasure boats are restricted by necessity to be less than 28 feet in length due to river depth at high tide. Therefore most sport charter vessels are forced to moor offshore at temporary mooring buoys and take a smaller inflatable lighter boat to these moorings.. A half dozen or so small pleasure boats also employ this method. But only in the summer. There is NO small boat useage in the months between September and May due to the lack of a safe harbor. All are subject to very hazardous sea conditions and incur damage and risk of loss of life with every attempt at access. Most non-commercial boat owners will not even attempt to moor offshore for these reasons.

The State of Alaska has built a ferry dock at Gustavus. Annual damage has necessitated millions of dollars being spent for repairs to this dock, and frequent total shut-down in ferry service while repairs are waiting to be completed. over the last ten years. The faulty design cannot stand up to the frequent winter storms. It will more than likely continue to need costly repairs without a proper harbor being built incorporating a heavy rock breakwater like all other Alaskan coastal harbors.

Thank you for your assistance.

Wayne Fleek
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