

1 **CITY OF HOMER**
2 **HOMER, ALASKA**

Aderhold

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4 **RESOLUTION 19-079**

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6 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF HOMER, ALASKA
7 CONSIDERING UNACCEPTABLE THE REDUCTIONS TO FUNDING
8 FOR THE ALASKA MARINE HIGHWAY SYSTEM IN FY20 AND
9 CHANGES TO THE WINTER FERRY SCHEDULE, OPPOSING ANY
10 FURTHER REDUCTIONS TO THE SYSTEM'S BUDGET, AND
11 SUPPORTING REFORM THAT IS SUSTAINABLE AND RESPONSIVE
12 TO THE NEEDS OF COASTAL COMMUNITIES

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14 WHEREAS, The Alaska Marine Highway System (AMHS) is a fundamental and critical
15 method of transportation for Alaska's coastal communities; and

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17 WHEREAS, State investment in the AMHS produces a return on State funding almost
18 two to one, facilitating both economic and community development; and

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20 WHEREAS, State government does not experience that return without a broad-based
21 tax, but local tax bases rely on an active and fully functioning ferry system; and

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23 WHEREAS, The reductions in FY20 revenue and the corresponding winter schedule,
24 which eliminated service in some communities (including those served from Homer) for as
25 much as six to eight months, creates a health, safety, and economic crisis in those
26 communities; and

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28 WHEREAS, Local governments such as Homer have little say in the structure of the ferry
29 system, and are not in a position to act in the State's stead; and

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31 WHEREAS, It remains the fact that local governments such as Homer feel incredible
32 responsibility for the lives and livelihoods of residents, for whom the winter schedule is
33 untenable; and

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35 WHEREAS, While the State works toward long-term solutions, local governments,
36 including Homer, have demanded that funds be appropriated such that communities see
37 continued service; and

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39 WHEREAS, Until the State has finalized a negotiated, long-term solution that includes
40 local governments, further reductions to the system are clearly detrimental to the well-being
41 of Alaskans; and
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43 WHEREAS, Local governments such as Homer recognize the challenges facing the ferry
44 system, but dismantling it further will not result in a viable future; and

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46 WHEREAS, There is not a scenario in the future economy and communities of coastal
47 Alaska that the ferry system does not play an integral part.

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49 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of Homer, Alaska considers
50 unacceptable the reductions to funding for the AMHS in FY20 and the changes to the winter
51 schedule for many ferry-dependent communities; and

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53 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council of Homer, Alaska opposes any further
54 reduction to the System's budget and supports reform that is sustainable and responsive to
55 the needs of coastal communities.

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57 PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Homer City Council this 28th day of October, 2019.

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59 CITY OF HOMER

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64 KEN CASTNER, MAYOR

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69 MELISSA JACOBSEN, MMC, CITY CLERK

70 Fiscal Note: N/A