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Nov. 1, 2019

Mary Siroky, Deputy Commissioner, Alaska Department of Transportation
Capt. John Falvey, General Manager, AMHS

RE: AMHS winter schedule – LeConte and Tazlina

Dear Deputy Commissioner Siroky and Capt. Falvey,

We are concerned to hear that the M/V LeConte is being pulled from the winter AMHS schedule due to necessary repairs. We understand there might be a possible solution - bringing the M/V Tazlina online, even for a short time, to allow it to serve Southeast this winter.

We understand work to replace the M/V Tazlina's side doors has yet to begin. Since operational funds are currently in the budget for the LeConte and the Tazlina is less expensive to operate, it would seem a good opportunity to meet the needs of the region while staying within budget constraints.

We also hope you are successful in securing federal funding to assist with vessel repairs to restore the AMHS fleet to full capacity. If we can be of any help in advocating for federal assistance, please let us know.

Maintaining consistent and regular ferry service is imperative to the economy and livelihood of Haines and all our Southeast communities. We hope the Tazlina offers a solution that will adhere to the AMHS available budget while also offsetting some of the impacts to communities of losing the LeConte.

Thank you for doing what you can to make sure our vital Marine Highway stays open, functioning and in service to our Southeast communities.

Sincerely,

Margaret Friedenauer
Executive director