**CITY OF GUSTAVUS, ALASKA**
**RESOLUTION CY15-14**

**A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY OF GUSTAVUS ENCOURAGING FUNDING OF THE ALASKA MARINE HIGHWAY SYSTEM TO SUSTAIN SERVICE VITAL TO COASTAL COMMUNITIES**

**WHEREAS,** the Alaska Marine Highway System is essential infrastructure and a major economic engine for coastal Alaska, carrying residents, freight, and tourists throughout a region lacking a constructed State road system, and;

**WHEREAS,** weather conditions often leave isolated coastal Alaskan communities without any alternative reliable transportation access, other than the ferry, for many days at a time, and;

**WHEREAS,** the Alaska Ferry system has a reliability that allows Alaskans to plan with confidence a trip outside their communities for shopping, medical appointments, job opportunities, school educational trips, cultural opportunities, sporting events, and vacations, and;

**WHEREAS,** travel via the Alaska Ferry is inherently more economical and less stressful than flying, particularly for young families with children, school groups, and for seniors with limited incomes, and;

**WHEREAS,** the Alaska Ferry system carries vehicles and other large or heavy loads that can't be transported by air and;

**WHEREAS,** the economy of Gustavus is visitor-oriented with an increasing number of tourists reaching Gustavus by ferry, and;

**WHEREAS,** some businesses in Gustavus would be severely impacted if they were unable to ship freight or bring in customers via the Alaska Ferry, and;

**WHEREAS,** each individual's ferry trip or freight shipment generates economic activity at both ends that would not occur if the trip could not be made and now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED:** the Gustavus City Council urges the funding of the Alaska Marine Highway System at a level that will allow it to continue to provide the essential service so vital to our community and to others connected by the system.

**PASSED** and **APPROVED** by the Gustavus City Council this 13th of April, 2015.

Mike Taylor

Mike Taylor, Mayor

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Attest: Lori Ewing, City Clerk