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December 5, 2023

The Honorable Mike Dunleavy
Governor
State of Alaska
Alaska State Capitol
120 4th St, Juneau Alaska 99801

Governor Dunleavy:

I write to share the good news of another round of federal investment in the Alaska Marine Highway System (AMHS). With this week's announcement of \$131 million, a total of \$416 million has now been announced for the AMHS in 2023 alone. This is another step forward in the transformation of the AMHS that the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) has made possible, and it presents an opportunity we must take full advantage of.

I'm proud that the State of Alaska successfully competed for these funds and thank you for directing your administration to do so. As with any federal grant program, however, it is now incumbent upon the nonfederal recipient, in this case the State of Alaska, to provide the required local matching funds. The \$92 million capital award announced this week, which will be used to help fund the M/V Tustumena replacement and recapitalize the AMHS fleet, will require an estimated \$23 million in State matching funds. I urge you to include those funds, which the State's applications committed to providing, in your December budget proposal to signal to the State Legislature that it is a top priority to secure these awards.

As you know, State matching funds are increasingly critical to maximizing the benefits of the IIJA for Alaska. Over the next three fiscal years, we expect that the Rural Ferry Program alone will make approximately \$600 million more available for the AMHS. In addition, we will need the State to be ready to provide necessary matches for historic funding to build and modernize Alaska's roads, highways, bridges, ports, airports, electric grids, broadband, and additional types of infrastructure.

As the delegation works to bring home as many dollars from the IJA as possible, we are counting on you and your administration to ensure that all of the opportunities made possible by this law are realized. Thank you for your consideration and for your continued work to develop Alaska's core infrastructure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lisa Murkowski".

Lisa Murkowski
United States Senator

Cc: Senator Bert Stedman
Senator Lyman Hoffman
Senator Donald Olson
Representative DeLena Johnson
Representative Bryce Edgmon
Representative Neal Foster