



RESOLUTION 26-37

A RESOLUTION OF THE ALEUTIANS EAST BOROUGH ASSEMBLY IN SUPPORT OF FULL FUNDING OF 2026 AND FUTURE YEARS ALASKA MARINE HIGHWAY SYSTEM OPERATIONS AND THE TUSTUMENA REPLACEMENT VESSEL PROJECT.

WHEREAS, the Alaska Marine Highway System (AMHS) is vitally important to the continued well-being of the communities of the Aleutians East Borough and other Alaska coastal communities; and,

WHEREAS, the proposed 2026 AMHS Summer schedule for once monthly MV Tustumena runs to Southwest Alaska, including to Borough communities, from May to September is a lifeline for travelers to and from this region that is accessible only by air or sea and at considerable expense; and

WHEREAS, the AMHS and the MV Tustumena are a critical link for the transport of vehicles for residents in SW Alaska and for moving equipment for community projects; and

WHEREAS, the AMHS is in jeopardy of a partial or total shutdown this summer due to various funding issues; and

WHEREAS, the MV Tustumena, built in 1964, has exceeded its intended service life and the replacement vessel project has faced multiple delays over the years, and

WHEREAS, the Tustumena Replacement vessel contract is now out for bid, with a projected completion date sometime in 2029; and

WHEREAS, Aleutians East Borough residents overwhelmingly support continued AMHS service to Borough communities as well as the timely completion of the Tustumena Replacement Vessel project.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Aleutians East Borough Assembly requests the Alaska Legislature, the Governor of Alaska and the Alaska Congressional Delegation to prioritize funding to maintain the current level of AMHS service in 2026 and future years; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Aleutians East Borough Assembly requests the Alaska Legislature, the Governor and the Congressional Delegation continue to keep the Tustumena Replacement Vessel Project moving forward to completion in a timely manner.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Aleutians East Borough on this 12th day of February, 2026.


Alvin D. Osterback, Mayor

ATTEST: 
Beverly Rosete, Clerk