

Alaska State Legislature

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Representative Louise Stutes
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July 17, 2026

Commissioner Ryan Anderson
Department of Transportation & Public Facilities (DOTPF)
PO Box 112500
Juneau AK 99801

Dear Commissioner Anderson,

We are contacting you regarding the Alaska Marine Highway System (AMHS) Winter Ferry Schedule and the lack of service to Cordova from October 1, 2026 through March 5, 2027. We are deeply concerned about the significant, negative impacts this extended loss of ferry service will have on the Cordova community.

Multiple public comments were shared with our offices from Cordova civic, business, school district, and community members regarding the lack of ferry service for Cordova in the Draft Winter Ferry Schedule. The negative consequences of this lengthy service gap will be felt throughout the community, from business and civic organizations to individuals and families.

This prolonged absence of ferry service will create substantial financial and logistical challenges for small businesses and the Cordova School District. Students may be forced to cancel participation in as many as 17 academic and athletic trips, limiting access to important educational and extracurricular experiences. Individuals and families will face greater difficulty scheduling medical appointments and other essential services. In addition, civic organizations will suffer due to the loss of dependable, affordable transportation for educational and cultural events.

As legislators representing Cordova constituents, we urge DOTPF and AMHS to explore scheduling alternatives that would provide safe, reliable service to Cordova during this more than 5-month winter gap between October 2026 and March 2027.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. We appreciate your attention to the needs of the Cordova community and welcome the opportunity to discuss potential solutions. Please contact us with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

A stylized, handwritten signature in blue ink, likely belonging to Gary Stevens.

Senate President Gary Stevens
Senate District C

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Louise Stutes".

Rep. Louise Stutes
House District 5

cc:
Craig Tornega, DOTPF Marine Director
Kerri Traudt, DOTPF Vessel Scheduling Coordinator
Andy Mills, DOTPF Legislative Liaison