

# STATE OF ALASKA

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC FACILITIES

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

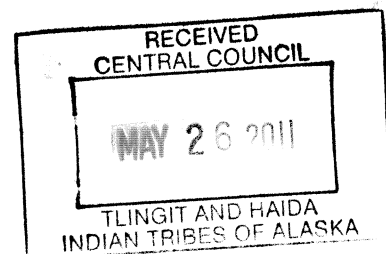
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May 24, 2011



Mr. Edward K. Thomas, President  
Central Council Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska  
Andrew P. Hope Building  
320 West Willoughby Avenue, Suite 300  
Juneau, AK 99801-1726

Dear President Thomas:

I was pleased to receive your letter of May 6, 2011, forwarding Resolution TA 11-51.

Despite being new to my position of Deputy Commissioner for Marine Operations, I fully realize the importance and value that Alaska Marine Highway System services provides to rural Alaskan communities such as Angoon. I will do my best to keep that service reliable, dependable, and above all, safe.

I also recognize the importance of replacing some of our older Alaska Marine Highway System ships with the new Alaska Class Ferry. I have been fully engaged in efforts to get that project moving forward by working with the administration and the legislature to identify funding and procurement strategies to ensure a successful outcome.

I have already been in contact with community leaders from some of our small rural communities to discuss Alaska Marine Highway System issues. I intend to continue doing that in the future.

Thank you for your support of the Alaska Marine Highway System.

Sincerely,

Captain Michael A. Neussl  
Deputy Commissioner  
Marine Operations