



THE STATE  
of ALASKA  
GOVERNOR MICHAEL J. DUNLEAVY

Department of Transportation and  
Public Facilities

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER  
John MacKinnon, Commissioner

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April 1, 2019

Brian J. Humphrey  
Director, Field Operations  
US Customs and Border Protection  
33 New Montgomery Street, Suite 1620  
San Francisco, California 94105

Dear Director Humphrey:

In response to your letter received March 15, 2019, the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, on behalf of the Alaska Marine Highway System (AMHS), requests an extension for the requirement to provide law enforcement coverage for U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers who provide clearance for AMHS vessel passengers entering the United States from Prince Rupert. The State of Alaska requests an extension until September 30, 2019. As stated in your letter, "CBP or its legacy agencies have been conducting inspections of vehicles and passengers bound for the United States on a ferry originating in Prince Rupert (BC) Canada to Ketchikan, Alaska for decades". In all those decades, there have been no serious incidents.

AMHS has reached out to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) to request assistance. However, the RCMP is understaffed in Prince Rupert and have no capability to provide the required law enforcement presence – even though AMHS will pay for staff and any needed overtime. RCMP has informed AMHS it will take at least 2-3 months to get adequately staffed to meet our request.

Without an extension, AMHS will cancel all spring and summer sailings to Prince Rupert. This will be a serious disruption to the traveling plans for an estimated 6,000 people who embark on an AMHS ferry in Prince Rupert.

If an incident were to occur on the vessel in-route to Ketchikan, AMHS will call upon the Alaska State Troopers to meet the vessel and deal with any incident. An extension to September 30, 2019 will give us time to find an appropriate way to meet your requirement.

I appreciate your attention to this request so the Alaska Marine Highway System can continue to provide service to Canadians and US citizens wanting to travel from Prince Rupert to Ketchikan.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John MacKinnon".

John MacKinnon  
Commissioner

Cc: The Honorable Lisa Murkowski, United States Senator  
The Honorable Dan Sullivan, United States Senator  
Kip Knudson, Director, State/Federal Regulations, Office of the Governor  
Brandon A. Lee, Consul General of Canada

*"Keep Alaska Moving through service and infrastructure."*