

Nov 1, 2020

Mr. Mayor and Members of the Assembly,

My name is Suzanne Wood and I am a Petersburg resident. The following comments are mine.

I support Resolution #2020-21.

The \$40 million set aside for the Kake Access Project (KAP) has encountered serious opposition from community members in Petersburg, Kake and elsewhere, particularly during our State's economic realities. The need for dedicated annual Department of Transportation (DOT) funding for road repair and rebuild, snow removal and sanding during winter months is a necessity as this project will be introducing a road hazard liability to travelers—unless it is intended to be constructed simply as a “make-work” project and for seasonal use. Budgetary realities are not conducive for year-round maintenance without impacting other existing road snow removal.

The stated purpose and need of KAP is for subsistence (hunting and berry picking) and recreation. That is a ridiculous rationale to use for blowing \$40 million dollars. Pure pork barrel spending, and it would be asinine to proceed any further.

Commenters on KAP have continually supported re-directing the \$40 million KAP funds for repairing, rebuilding, and maintaining the iconic Alaska State Ferry System—a definite and necessary lifeline for Southeast Alaska's remote and island communities. The lack of affordable and consistent Alaska State Ferry service brought to the forefront real food insecurity for a number of remote Southeast communities. Southeast Alaskans were forced to pay higher prices for barging in foodstuffs from Juneau, weather permitting. State officials claiming the \$40 million cannot be redirected are incorrect as the State Ferry, an existing and iconic transportation source, could receive the \$40 million

with a governor's Executive Order in support of life-sustaining and community needs across the Ferry's historic transit routes.

I urge the Assembly to support Resolution #2020-21 in order to further clarify the purpose and need in a public hearing. It's Alaska's money that is getting pissed away for "recreation and subsistence" reasons, not for the benefit of the State, which our Ferry System does.

Thank you for this opportunity to share my views.

Signed,
Suzanne Wood