

## Debra Thompson

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**From:** ronnbuschmann@aol.com  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 27, 2020 1:42 PM  
**To:** Assembly  
**Subject:** 12 Mile to Kake Road

Dear Mayor and Assembly Members,

I am writing to support the Kake to 12 mile road. I have jury duty on Monday and don't know if I will make the meeting.

1. I think it is important to remember that this allocation was made in 2012 as the local area's share of State Capital Project Distributions. In the present financial times giving this distribution up not only gives up this infrastructure project which may have unknown benefits in the future but also gives up the economic activity these moneys would create in the local economy.

2. The ferry system is in total disarray. Hopefully a new direction will be charted that will provide reasonable service to the communities of Southeast Alaska. It is probably unlikely that there will be a satisfactory resolution to the ferry issues during this administration. It is also probable that rational ferry service will involve building some new small ferries on shorter transit legs, also unlikely during this administration. Regardless, it will be quite some time before the ferry mess is straightened out and alternative transportation may prove essential.

3. Production for the upcoming fishing year is sizing up to be mediocre at best. Add to that the fact that salmon market prices are taking a big hit due to Russian output as well as the disruption caused by the Coronavirus. The Coronavirus has put downward pressure on both prices and volume for other seafood products. For example, last year Brown Crab was worth \$15 pound into the Asian live market. This year the price is \$8 pound. Black Cod and other products like sea cucumbers etc. that have traditionally benefited from a large share in Asian markets are taking a beating and holdover production from last year is sitting in cold storages or selling at a significant loss.

4. Tourism is taking a huge hit as well. Worldwide there have been 200,000 flights cancelled. Cruise ship bookings are down 15% so far amid cancellations as high as 22%. This is with the Coronavirus on the world stage, so to speak, for less than two months. It's easy to say that this won't affect Alaska but last week there was a Caribbean cruise ship with 5000 people aboard being refused docking in various ports because they had a sick crewman. The thought of being quarantined for two weeks on a cruise ship would keep me from buying a ticket. When you get on an airplane do you ask where the person next to you was last week or who he sat next to on his last flight?

My point is that we may be looking ahead to a couple of down years for the local economy and now is not the time to turn away a \$40,000,000 project.

Respectfully, Ronn Buschmann