

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



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LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

NAME: Rob Holston
ADDRESS: 11380 Alderwood St. N.
Ketchikan, AK. 99901
PHONE: 907-225-6919
EMAIL: holston@kpvnet.net
BILL# or SUBJECT: H.B. 167
COMMITTEE: _____

I own Lighthouse Excursions, Inc. in Ketchikan. In 9 years of business, we have served 100,000 guests. We employ 10.

In 2009, we suffered a 12% loss in business. As a result we cut hours.

In 2010, we anticipate as much as a 30% reduction in visitors. This will require a reduction in employees.

Please support passage of H.B. 167. We must advertise if we want to survive.
Thank you,

Rob Holston



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the house finance
COMMITTEE NAME
 committee on House bill no 167, dated 11/4/09
BILL/SUBJECT TODAY'S DATE

Anchor Point seafoods sales have declined 50% the last two years. Most of our sales come from the small sport charter fishing boats in our local area. Their sales have decline also. Alaska needs a well defined marketing plan. We encourage you to support bill 167. 20 million would be a good start to market Alaska to the world. Thank you.

Signed: Paul WARNER
TESTIFIER (signed, PRINTED NAME)
Anchor Point Sea foods
REPRESENTING
mm. 3-2 N. Fork Rd PO Box 1066 Anchor Point 9955
ADDRESS
907 - 235-8885
PHONE NO.

From: Theresa Weiser [apcinc2008@hotmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, November 04, 2009 3:24 PM
To: LIO Sitka
Subject: Testimony in support of HB 167 Wednesday Nov. 4th

To Whom It May Concern,

This is Theresa Weiser from Sitka. I am president of the Sitka Charterboat Operators Association in Sitka, Alaska. I have been a sportfishing lodge owner for over 20 years in Sitka and am still currently in business. We TRY to operate six charter vessels daily. This has been a difficult challenge during the last year due to the EVER-INCREASING Sportfishing Restrictions and the faltering economy.

I would like to testify as follows:
 I support HB 167.

Our sportfishing lodge business was down over 30% in 2009 from the previous 2008 season. Business for the sportfishing charter industry as a whole, has been down an average of 30% or more in 2009, compared to the previous 2008 season for everyone I have had contact with in our industry these past few months. I know of businesses that are no longer in business, and others that are struggling fiercely to keep going, but do not know if they can make it thru this winter and/or thru another summer. To say that the 2009 season was debilitating for our industry is an understatement!
 It is way past time for our legislative leaders to recognize the economic value of tourism to the State of Alaska and give stronger support to increase the State's marketing efforts by designating \$20 million plus in support of the Alaska Visitor's Industry.
 I urge you to support HB 167. This is a good idea.

Sincerely,

Theresa Weiser
 Owner/Operator



Alaska Premier Charters, Inc. / Wild Strawberry Lodge
 P.O. Box 2300, Sitka, AK 99835
 Toll Free: 1-800-770-2628
 Phone: 907-747-3232
 Fax: 907-747-3646
 Website: www.wildstrawberrylodge.com
 Email: info@wildstrawberrylodge.com

please add this to your public testimony for today's mtg.
Thank you.

Post-it® Fax Note	7671	Date	11/4/09	# of pages	1
To	Rep. Stolze's	From	Sitka LIO		
Co./Dept.		Co.	Marie Murray		
Phone #		Phone #	747-6276		
Fax #	396-4928	Fax #	747-5807		



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Finance
COMMITTEE NAME
 committee on HB 167, dated 11/4/09
BILL/SUBJECT TODAY'S DATE

- We are a "mom & pop" business in Homer
- 2009 was a bad year for us; 2010 looks like it will be even worse.
- we need more Tourism MARKETING if we are to hold our own.
- we need ATIA to do this. They do a good job with limited funds.
- Please support sustainable funding to this renewable resource industry.
- Please support "Tourism MARKETING TAX Credit" via HB 167.

Signed: Gerald W. Scholand Gerald W. SCHOLAND
TESTIFIER (Signed, PRINTED NAME)
KRANA Hodgings
REPRESENTING
58856 EAST End Rd. Homer
ADDRESS
235-8824 (H/W) 299-0858 (cell)
PHONE NO.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Finance Committee
COMMITTEE NAME
 committee on HB167, dated 11/4/09
BILL / SUBJECT TODAY'S DATE

- My name is Tina Day and I'm the Executive Director of the Homer Chamber of Commerce. I have lived in Alaska since 1980.
- The Alaska visitor industry is an extremely important economic engine in our community.
- As you may know, Homer has numerous tourism related businesses, many of them small business, who rely heavily on the marketing efforts of organizations like ATIA to bring tourists to Alaska and local communities like ours.
- This year overall tourism in Homer was down about 25% across the industry. But some businesses, particularly in the guided fishing charter sector, were down as much as 60%.
- The Homer Chamber for the past 19 years has contracted with the City of Homer to provide marketing services to increase local tourism.
- This year due to budget cutback, some of this funding was reduced causing cutback to marketing programs. Next year we expect even more significant cutbacks -- we have already reduced our staff by 1 fulltime person and 1/2 time person in anticipation of this reduction.
- That is why now more than ever, we rely on our partner organizations like ATIA to develop and implement statewide marketing strategies to sustain the visitor industry in Alaska.
- The Homer Chamber of Commerce urges you to support HB167. It is vital that we provide ATIA, and organizations like them, with the resources to effectively promote Alaska -- sustaining the visitor industry in rural Alaskan communities!

Signed: Tina Day - Tina Day, Executive Director
TESTIFIER (Signed, PRINTED NAME)
Homer Chamber of Commerce
REPRESENTING
201 Sterling Hwy, Homer AK 99603
ADDRESS
907-235-7740
PHONE NO.