



Kachemak Bay Conservation Society
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RE: Alaska House (HB 80) and Senate (SB 29)
2013

January 28,

Dear Senate Resource Committee,

Kachemak Bay Conservation Society (KBCS) opposes House (HB 80) and Senate (SB 29) for the following reasons:

1. In 2006, Alaskan voters passed a statewide ballot initiative requiring the reduction of pollution dumping in Alaskan waters (from the shoreline out to 3 miles). This ballot was in response to the discovery that the cruise ship industry has been dumping their filthy sewage in our precious waters since coming to Alaska. The public and conservationists were outraged by the behavior by this tourist industry. It is imperative that we treat our oceans with the utmost respect and that includes cruise ship industry to do their part in this endeavor.
2. Many Alaskans rely on our coastal waters for recreation (kayaking, canoeing and wildlife viewing), Fishing (commercial, sport and subsistence fisheries), and many businesses. Why then pollute what makes Alaska so special?
3. Cruise ships are enormous floating cities and the technology exists to reduce cruise ship pollution. Metal polishing will eliminated 50% (or more) of copper generated on board. HB80 would exempt this. Another recurring issue is bunker water - the cruise lines claim that SE water is tainted by copper. This is inaccurate after it was proven that by replacing the main, metal ball valve with a plastic one, the counts went from 17 ppb copper and 70 ppb lead to 2ppb copper and .6 ppb lead
4. With the massive profits (in the millions) made by cruise ships, they can afford *not* to use Alaskan waters as their dumping grounds.
5. Should cruise ships should be allowed to discharge in Alaskan waters, KBCS feels that there should at least be exclusion zones around critical habitat areas, shellfish farms and important fisheries.



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Sincerely,

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