FRANKLIN DOCK ENTERPRISES, LLC
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The Honorable Cathy Giessel
Chair, Senate Resources Committee
State Capitol, Rm 427
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Senator Giessel:

This is a letter of support for SB 29 regarding waste water treatment standards for cruise ships in Alaska waters.

Franklin Dock Enterprises owns private cruise ship docks in Juneau and Whittier. We are Alaskan owned and have made major infrastructure developments which have been of benefit to both Juneau and Whittier. We are major tax payers in both communities and cruise ships utilizing our docks contribute a significant share of head taxes to the state and the communities. We have also strived to be innovative by installing the first on shore electrical power system for ships using our docks and a waste water pipeline to the local sewage treatment plant.

We support the legislation because we believe it provides good balance between environmental protection and practical on-board waste water treatment systems. The industry has made major capital expenditures to do a better job in waste water treatment than most, if not all of our local sewage treatment plants which discharge directly into our local marine waters.

Our docks have very little use except for cruise ship docking. Alaskan state and local tax policy helped put the ships on a decline curve several years ago with significant adverse consequences to all of us who run tour or support businesses that rely on cruise ship traffic. Legislation reducing those taxes have helped to draw some of the ships back into our market. Excessive regulation of waste water treatment and fuel types are threatening to reverse the return of the ships and their passengers.

SB 29 is small but positive step in finding the right balance.

Sincerely,

Reed Stoops
Franklin Dock Enterprises