



Alaskan Dream Cruises

Senator Bert Stedman
State Capitol Room 30
Juneau AK, 99801

Dear Senator Stedman,

I am writing to voice my serious concern regarding the expiration of Best Management Practices statutes for Alaska's small cruise vessels and ferries. House Bill 80 of 2013 was intended to make the Best Management Practices statutes and regulations permanent for these vessels.

With that concern in mind, I am in support of Senate Bill 3 (SB 3), which you have sponsored, to reinstate the language in the statute that provided for an alternative wastewater authorization measure for small cruise ships and state ferries based on having a DEC-approved plan incorporating Best Management Practices. My hope is that SB 3 will make this legislation permanent.

Elliott Bay Design Group has performed stability calculations on our vessels. Those calculations have shown these vessels would have to undergo millions of dollars of renovations just to provide the increased stability needed for additional tankage and treatment equipment. This is to say nothing of the large additional expense of the actual hardware. We would not be able to re-coup such a cost during the life of these ships. As a result, the vessels would potentially be removed from service, a loss that would immediately cost many Alaskan jobs.

The effects of not having this alternative wastewater authorization go far beyond major loss of revenue for our Alaskan-owned and operated company. Our vessels call on the ports of Juneau, Sitka, Glacier Bay, Hoonah, Skagway, Haines, Kake, Petersburg, Wrangell, Thorne Bay, Kasaan, Metlakatla and Ketchikan. If we were forced to remove vessels from service, these communities would no longer recognize the sales tax, docking fees, fuel purchases, tour and other small business revenues and employment we deliver. This is especially true in smaller rural communities that have minimal industry and depend on the revenues we and other small ships provide. Some of our guests opt for the cruise and land packages we offer, which means the negative economic affects will also be felt in Southcentral and Interior Alaska. I am in full support of this legislation that you have sponsored. Without the legislation, it would not only be my company that suffers, but also other small cruise operators plying Alaska waters, our state ferry system, and many local economies in the state. The inevitable hardship has the potential to be devastating.

Sincerely,

David Allen
Owner
Alaskan Dream Cruises