



ALASKA STATE  
COUNCIL ON THE ARTS

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Alaska State Council on the Arts  
RE: SB3 Small Vessel Wastewater Exemption; Percent for Art  
February 6, 2017

The Alaska State Council on the Arts (ASCA) does not oppose Senate Bill 3 as a one-time, targeted exemption from the Alaska Percent for Arts Program. ASCA supports Percent for Art as a logical, self-regulating, and modest means of ensuring that the State of Alaska invests in art when building facilities and structures for public use. Public art enhances the lives of all who encounter it, from workers in State buildings, to Alaskans who are clients of various State agencies, to those who happen to see and are inspired by public art as they encounter it in their daily lives. Whether such exposure to and experience of public art is brief or prolonged, it benefits those whose lives it touches.

The State is facing a tremendous fiscal crisis in 2017, and yet the need for replacement Alaska-class ferries for shorter routes, and for a larger replacement vessel for the *M/V Tustumena* is pressing and timely. Because all three vessels being designed by or currently under construction for the Alaska Marine Highway System have existing public art installed on them, the possibility exists that this artwork can be decommissioned from the ferries that are being retired, and then appropriately refurbished and reinstalled on the new replacement vessels. Fortunately, public art on ferries tends to be of a size and composition that lends itself more readily to removal and reinstallation.

ASCA has consulted with the Marine Highway and has carefully considered the proposed legislation to provide a limited, one-time exemption from the Percent for Arts statute, and at this time is able to take a position of accepting this as a necessary step in the current fiscal climate. ASCA remains committed to the existing Percent for Art Program which will continue to serve Alaskans well in the future.