



SENATOR JESSE KIEHL

SJR 9

Sponsor Statement

With more than 2,260,000 visitors to the state in 2019, tourism is an essential part of Alaska's economy. Many Alaskans, our families, and our communities depend on income from tourism. Cruise ships are a big part of Alaska tourism, bringing roughly half of all visitors to the state. Because of the Passenger Vessel Services Act and other federal rules, certain cruise ships can only sail to Alaska if they stop in at least one foreign port. The Canadian government's decision to prevent most cruise ships from entering Canadian waters effectively prevents Alaska from having a cruise season in 2021.

The United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has published stringent COVID safety protocols for responsible cruising in American waters, and this resolution acknowledges their importance for Alaskans and visitors alike. SJR 9 is a time-limited request asking the United States Congress and the President to take the actions needed for cruise ships to sail on Alaska routes during the waning months of the COVID-19 pandemic