

From: [Maureen Knutsen](#)
To: [Senate Resources](#)
Cc: [House Community and Regional Affairs](#)
Subject: Please support SB180
Date: Monday, April 18, 2022 8:44:51 AM

Protecting Alaska's waters is of paramount importance for many reasons and the Ocean Rangers program is an essential part of achieving this for now and the future. I ask that you support full long-term funding for this program.

Thank you,
Maureen Knutsen
PO Box 134
Naknek, AK 99633

From: [Ruth Fulwiler](#)
To: [House Community and Regional Affairs](#)
Subject: Ranger program for cruise ships
Date: Monday, April 18, 2022 8:59:22 AM

I am writing to urge you to keep the Ranger program for cruise ships. Juneau depends on clean water for fishing as well as tourism and a host of other things. We don't want garbage in the Chanel.

Thank you,
Ruth Fulwiler

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Thom Ely](#)
To: [Senate Resources](#)
Cc: [House Community and Regional Affairs](#)
Subject: Public Testimony SB 180
Date: Monday, April 18, 2022 9:19:35 AM

AK Senators,

I support full funding for the Ocean Rangers program, voted for and implemented by the people of Alaska and paid for by the cruise industry. This program is essential to keeping the cruise industry honest and protecting our maritime waters. The industry has had many violations in Alaska and without the program it may be back to business as usual.

Let's take the politics and corporate political favors out of this and do what the people of Alaska voted for, a program to protect our pristine marine ecosystem and our billions of dollars commercial fishery economy. Please revive the Ocean Rangers program to its full duty.

Sincerely,

Thomas Ely
POB 1014
Haines, AK 99827

From: [Margo Waring](#)
To: [Senate Resources](#); [House Community and Regional Affairs](#)
Subject: SB 180 HB 303
Date: Monday, April 18, 2022 9:29:08 AM

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing about Governor Mike Dunleavy's bill that would permanently eliminate Alaska's Ocean Ranger program — our cruise ship watchdogs. Gov. Dunleavy stripped out Ocean Ranger funding in the 2019 budget effectively eliminating this important program. Now, the governor and our DEC Division of Water want permanent protection for an industry known to pollute our waters. In 2006, Alaskans realized the need to protect our waters--nothing has changed. The major cruise lines have all been convicted of felonies which endanger our aquatic resources and dump fecal coliform in our harbors.

Please protect our fisheries, mariculture and port communities.

Sincerely,

Margo Waring
11380 N. Douglas Hwy
Juneau, AK 99801

From: [Kathy Kyle](#)
To: [Senate Resources](#); [House Community and Regional Affairs](#)
Subject: SB 180/HB 303
Date: Monday, April 18, 2022 9:59:48 AM

I live in Sitka, and we are facing a season of unprecedented numbers of cruise ships. It is vital that we minimize their impact on our environment by continuing the Ocean Rangers program, which voters passed in 2006. The people of Alaska support this program. It is not right to end it.

Thank you.

Kathryn Kyle
2213 Sawmill Creek Rd.
Sitka, AK 99835

From: [Diana Rossmiller](#)
To: [Senate Resources](#); [House Community and Regional Affairs](#)
Subject: Ocean Rangers Program SB180 & HB303
Date: Monday, April 18, 2022 10:18:32 AM

Hello,

I am a constituent who has lived in Juneau, Alaska for the past 28 years. I depend on clean ocean water for nutritious food that my family and I harvest from the sea. I depend on the wilderness for my well being. I depend on the forest that is nourished by the salmon that live in the ocean. I depend on you to maintain and improve the health of our state, and this means protecting Alaskan waters.

Please do not eliminate the Ocean Rangers program. I want the cruise ship industry to be closely monitored and held accountable for their actions, not only when they are in port in our hometown or in other ports in other towns, but also when they are out on the ocean.

Keep the Ocean Rangers in the law and do everything you can to restore funding in 2023 and improve this program for the health and well being of all Alaskans and all visitors to our beautiful state.

Do the right thing; do not eliminate this program. Our lives literally depend on it.

Sincerely,

Diane Rossmiller
8844 N Douglas Hwy
Juneau, AK 99801
907-723-0235

From: [Kathrin McCarthy](#)
To: [House Community and Regional Affairs](#)
Subject: Ocean Rangers
Date: Monday, April 18, 2022 10:44:34 AM

Dear House Community and Regional Affairs

Dear Senate Resources Committee.

I am a long time resident of SE Alaska. I moved to Juneau in 1965. The cruise ship industry was not coming into Southeast Alaska until the mid-1980s. SE residents were in favor of tourism as a "Clean" industry that would be a source of revenue without polluting our waters, or forcing the destruction of fish and wildlife habitats by clear-cut logging of our valuable Tongass forest. We were more than naive. We SE residents had little knowledge or understanding of the cruise ship industry. We did not know then that this industry is one of the dirtiest and most exploitative of the natural environment and their workers. But we soon found out. As more ships began arriving we learned that grey water and black water was dumped into our clean waters, We also learned that paint, oil, photographic developer and dry cleaning fluid was also being dumped. Bags of garbage were also being thrown overboard. All this is documented in archives of the Juneau Empire, DEC and ADF&G.

The situation was serious and residents of SE Alaska through a public process implemented the idea of professional watch-dogs to provide onboard monitoring of what was happening on the cruise ships, thus the Ocean Rangers were born. The Ocean Rangers are critical to the oversight and regulation of an incredibly corrupt industry that now is being monitored, critiqued and in some cases banned from some ports world wide.

Under the extremely inept Dunleavy administration with Dunleavy himself as the host of a cadre of sycophants, who do not like the idea of any restraints on this large, extremely profitable industry who pollute as they sail into and out of our pristine waters. Keep the Ocean Rangers and do not pass this bad bill.

Sincerely,

Kathrin McCarthy, 414 3rd St. Juneau Ak. 99801
907-635-0051

From: [Eric Jones](#)
To: [Senate Resources](#); [Eric Jones](#)
Cc: [House Community and Regional Affairs](#); info@seacc.org
Subject: Senate Bill 180 - Amend or kill
Date: Monday, April 18, 2022 12:09:33 PM

Ladies and Gentlemen

I am not an Alaska resident.....But.....I am a cruise passenger looking forward to the pristine Alaskan waters
That your state, under your guidance, is so famous for.

The Ocean Ranger Program is essential to protecting Alaska waters and they do a lot more than just monitor wastewater discharge. They need to be reinstated, not cut.

If the Legislature is serious about wanting to protect Alaska waters, SB180 should be amended to keep the Ocean Rangers and raise the per passenger fee to \$20 to have adequate money for a well-funded Ocean Ranger program, with rangers on all of the ships, all of the time, and enough money to put into the fund to grant to local communities for shoreside needs.
Otherwise, let this bill die.

You are the guardians of our Nation's last remnants of its original wild and natural beauty.

Sincerely,

Eric Jones

From: [Denise Caposey](#)
To: [House Community and Regional Affairs](#)
Subject: Ocean Rangers
Date: Monday, April 18, 2022 7:22:23 PM

I am writing from my home in Skagway Alaska where we are currently cleaning up decades of ore contaminants in our port facility. Getting to this phase of the clean up has been a long and exhausting process. Skagway is a major port of call for the Alaska Cruise Industry. Skagway has a small population of year round residents (about 900) yet we entertain thousands of tourists every day for five months of the year. Most of these visitors are cruise ship passengers. Our tiny port town is located at the end of a long fjord and has miles of coastline that is some of the most pristine land in the world. We reside within the northernmost reaches of The Tongass National Forest. This is our draw. This is what people who are fortunate enough to be able to afford a luxury cruise come to see. The cruise industry needs to be monitored because it has not practiced safe environmental standards in its history.

We demand that the cruise industry protect our pristine environment. We demand that Ocean Rangers continue to monitor the ships that call on our ports in Southeast Alaska. Our livelihoods and our health depend on it. Do not fall prey to pressure by outside parties to lessen the watch on these cruise ships. Listen to the testimony and read the letter by Chris Schnieder, who was an Ocean Ranger and has inside information on what goes on down in the hold of these ships. It's a dirty industry that we have somehow glamorized. The people need eyes on the ships and the Ocean Ranger Program should have your full support. Do not pass HB 303 which essentially eliminates the Ocean Ranger Program. This does not provide an acceptable level of protection for our people or our oceans and lands.

Sincerely,
Denise Caposey
Skagway, Alaska

PS. HB 303 is the companion bill to SB 180, but you knew that.

From: [kent Barkhau](#)
To: [Senate Resources](#); [House Community and Regional Affairs](#)
Subject: SB 180
Date: Tuesday, April 19, 2022 2:48:15 PM

Dear Senators for the people of Alaska,

I see SB 180 as an effort by the Governor and his minions to benefit the bottom line of a very dirty industry (one that felony convictions for their disregard for Alaskans).

If the Legislature is serious about wanting to protect Alaska waters, SB180 should be amended to keep the Ocean Rangers and raise the per passenger fee to \$20 to have adequate money for a well-funded Ocean Ranger program, with rangers on all of the ships, all of the time, and enough money to put into the fund to grant to local communities for shoreside needs. Otherwise, let this bill die.

Kent Barkhau
837 Lincoln st
Sitka, AK

From: [Eric Syrene](#)
To: [House Community and Regional Affairs](#)
Subject: HB 303 public testimony
Date: Wednesday, April 20, 2022 1:04:56 PM

I, Eric Syrene of Gustavus Ak. Respectfully ask for your consideration. The Sea Ranger program should be reinstated and fully funded. Any efforts otherwise is disrespectful of the citizens of this state and all the beings that rely on clean waters for their lives. The cruise ship industry has shown time and again that it is not to be trusted to respect the laws that are to protect the health of the oceans. We the people voted for the Sea Ranger program in 2006. Why would anyone think it is ok to let it go? Special interests influencing politicians? Funding by charging per head is a fine way to fund good paying jobs and support the well being of our environment. If the bill does not include such provisions let it die. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely, Eric Syrene
Po. box 251 Gustavus, Ak 99826

From: [Padraig New](#)
To: [House Community and Regional Affairs](#)
Subject: Senate Bill 180 Comments
Date: Wednesday, April 20, 2022 2:29:30 PM

Hello,

I am writing today to oppose Governor Dunleavy's Senate Bill 180. The Ocean Ranger program is essential to keeping cruise lines accountable for their actions and keeping our environment healthy and sustainable. There is no reason this program should be eliminated as it is paid for by cruise ship passengers. If anything, based on cruise lines' prior history of polluting and dumping waste in protected marine and docking areas, and an increased number of ships visiting Alaska each summer, funding for the ocean ranger program should be increased. If the cruise industry wants to be part of the communities that we allow them to visit, they need to abide by our rules and regulations. They are our guests and need to be mindful and respectful of our waterways. Cruise ships already impact wildlife, our environment, and our quality of life enough, even with the ocean ranger program in place. If the cruise industry wants to continue making money off of guests visiting Alaska they should want the environment to remain as pristine and un-impacted by pollutants and waste as possible. Please consider keeping the Ocean Ranger program in place and increasing funding in the coming years.

Thank you for your time,

Padraig New
Juneau, AK

From: [katharine.coghill](#)
To: [House Community and Regional Affairs](#)
Subject: SB 180 strengthen the ocean ranger program
Date: Wednesday, April 20, 2022 3:39:05 PM

I live in Douglas Alaska and I work full time at Bartlett Regional hospital in the physical therapy department.

I have lived here since the early 1980s, I worked previously in fishery research at the Forestry Sciences Lab based out of Juneau, and I have seen significant deterioration of our environment during the past 40 years.

Alaska needs to be doing everything we can to protect our water quality and prevent any additional felony actions by the cruise ship industry.

The Ocean Ranger program is of critical importance and needs to be funded at higher levels and we need to have on-board monitoring of all cruise ships.

The cruise industry is narrowly focused on maximizing their profits, which means cutting corners and breaking laws whenever they think they can get away with it. They have no incentive to treat our waters with respect so it is up to us to hold them accountable.

Any suggestion that they can't afford to pay a small "tax" to protect our home is ludicrous.

The cruise industry has demonstrated blatant disregard for the law. They have proven they are not trustworthy and they must be closely monitored.

Thank you,
Katharine Coghill
Sent from my iPhone

From: [Jeff Fair](#)
To: [Senate Resources](#)
Cc: [House Community and Regional Affairs](#)
Subject: SB180 and HB303
Date: Wednesday, April 20, 2022 4:10:30 PM

I'm writing you this afternoon to strongly suggest that you do NOT support SB180 (nor HB303 in the House), a bill that would support the Governor's effort to wipe out funding for the Ocean Ranger Program. I ask you to support the ORP, maintain it with its funding in 2023 and in perpetuity.

Sending the funding to wastewater treatment in SE Alaska communities wouldn't come close to the funding necessary to take care of that. And the ORP is a law Alaskans wanted and got, and it has helped policing the tourist ships releases. We all know there have already been felony releases by tourboats.

This is no more targeting tourboat companies than our state police are targeting all drivers by pulling over speeding, intoxicated, or reckless drivers. It's called Law Enforcement.

So why not enforce the laws against dumping filth and poisons in the local sea? Alaska is The Greatland not just due to its size; for all Alaskans, the State and even the tourboat futures benefit from its unpoisoned waters and the marine wildlife and fisheries that live in the marine waters of Alaska.

Let's keep the ORP and find a different and more fulfilling way to improve the handling of seaside communities.

Thank you for your kind and thoughtful consideration,

Jeff Fair
P.O. Box 2947 (2102 North Alsek Circle)
Palmer, AK 99645

907-745-1522

From: [Welling Pope](#)
To: [House Community and Regional Affairs](#)
Subject: Keeping the Ocean Rangers permanently on cruise ships
Date: Thursday, April 21, 2022 2:02:43 AM

Dear House Community and Regional Affairs Officials, please do all in your power to reinstate and keep in full force permanently the Ocean Rangers on - board all cruise ships, and other ships if possible, that use Alaskan waters. The Ocean Rangers presence on - board cruise ships is vital for inspecting and monitoring actions and procedures and for deterring and reporting the harmful to the environment dumping of untreated sewage into Alaskan, etc., waters.

Cruise ships with their large passenger numbers need to be prevented from any sewage dumping into Alaskan waters where there are very important indigenous and other peoples' fisheries that could be within harmful reach of such pollution. Preventing sewage dumps could well protect iconic marine mammal populations' chances to recover from possible extinction.

This means that Ocean Rangers in sufficient numbers with their deterrent "clout" need to be fully funded now and into the future to protect Alaskan waters and livelihoods from potentially dangerous degradation by pollution.

Thank you very much for your careful consideration of this very urgent matter.

Sincerely yours, Welling T. Pope

56 Newfield St.

West Roxbury

MA 02132 - 2427

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