



*The Alaska SeaLife Center generates and shares scientific knowledge  
to promote understanding and stewardship of Alaska's marine ecosystems.*

[www.alaskasealife.org](http://www.alaskasealife.org)

February 22, 2022

The Alaska State Legislature  
Capitol Building  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Honorable Members of the Alaska State Legislature:

I am writing you today to encourage your support of the Alaska Railroad's efforts to receive legislative authority to bond for \$60 million for the replacement of the passenger cruise dock in Seward.

The current dock was built in 1966 and needs to be replaced in order to continue to serve the 200,000 cruise ship passengers that cross over it every year during their visits to Alaska. Many of those passengers make up the more than 160,000 guests that pass through the doors of the Alaska SeaLife Center. These passengers support the Alaska SeaLife Center, the statewide tourism industry, and the thousands of Alaskans who work in this industry doing everything from drive buses, work in coffee shops, run small and large hotels, and provide visitor adventures. Additionally, the bed taxes, head taxes, sales taxes, and other fees that those visitors pay support necessary services for the residents of Seward and all of Alaska.

The Alaska SeaLife Center has a critical relationship with the Alaska Railroad and the cruise ship industry. The presence and quality of their infrastructure impacts the success of our summer visitor season as well as the local Seward economy. A new facility is vital to maintain passengers arriving in Seward and in Alaska.

Key to this proposal is that the bonding will not be done by the State of Alaska and the people of Alaska will not be paying the bill. The Alaska Railroad will use its bonding authority to raise the funds and the fees for the use of the dock will pay the bill.

Thank you for your consideration and support of this effort,

Sincerely,

Tara L. Riemer, Ph.D.  
President and CEO