

Seward State Parks Citizen Advisory Board

The Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation provides outdoor recreation opportunities and conserves and interprets natural, cultural, and historic resources for the use, enjoyment, and welfare of the people.



March 24, 2025

Senate Transportation: Senate.Transportation@akleg.gov

House Finance: House.Finance@akleg.gov

Senator Matt Claman, Senator.Matt.Claman@akleg.gov

cc Carly Dennis, carly.dennis@akleg.gov

Representative McCabe, Representative.Kevin.McCabe@akleg.gov

cc Senator Gary Stevens, Senator.Gary.Stevens@akleg.gov

cc Representative Louise Stutes, Representative.Louise.Stutes@akleg.gov

cc DPOR Ricky Gease, ricky.gease@alaska.gov

cc Alaska State Parks Kenai/Prince William Sound Superintendent Hans Rinke,
hans.rinke@alaska.gov

RE: Vehicle Rental Tax, SB 138 and HB 123

Dear Legislators:

The Seward State Park Citizen Advisory Board requests your support of Senate Bill 138 and HB 123 regarding the recently reintroduced Alaska Vehicle Rental Tax collection.

This proposed legislation would move the responsibility for collecting and remitting the required vehicle lease and rental excise tax from the individual to the vehicle rental platform company. This would streamline collection of the required Vehicle Rental Tax (VRT) from peer-to-peer car sharing platforms such as Turo, and capture unreported vehicle rentals. It is not a new tax.

The Vehicle Rental Tax allocation provides a stable, sustainable funding platform for much-needed state park field operations. Visitors expect our state parks, especially those that are road-accessible like the Seward area state parks, to provide parking lots, restrooms, public use cabins, and trails. Maintenance, improvements, and timely investments in capital projects for outdoor recreation infrastructure on a shoestring budget with barebones staffing and funding is challenging. Underfunding jeopardizes the mission of Alaska State Parks.

Alaska State Parks are a vital component of Seward's and our state's economic engines. The recent designation of the Fort McGilvray Historic District in Caines Head State Recreation Area to the National Register of Historic Places will attract even more visitors to our already popular Seward area state parks.

Ensuring that all the required VRT is collected will in turn, help our state parks provide the expected visitor experiences.

We appreciate your consideration and support of Senate Bill 127. We fully support it.

Sincerely,
Nick Jordan
Chair