



March 29, 2009

Gov. Sean Parnell
State of Alaska
Governor's Office
550 W 7th Ave., Ste. 1700
Anchorage, AK 99501

Dear Gov. Parnell:

On behalf of the Anchorage Chamber of Commerce, we would like to thank you for your efforts to create a comprehensive approach to address the visitor decline while strengthening relationships with the cruise industry. Your plan not only makes Alaska more competitive, but attracts more visitors through increased marketing – it provides our best chance of turning things around for the visitor industry, Alaska business owners, and the economic climate of the state as a whole.

Specifically, we are pleased to support:

- A reduction in head tax to \$34.50
- Allow tourism revenue to be reinvested to marketing Alaska, through a corporate tax credit

Tourism is a very important economic engine not only for Anchorage, but for all of our members within Southcentral Alaska. Your support is appreciated and needed.

Please feel free to call on us if we can be of further assistance in finding support for your proposal.

Sincerely,

Tony Izzo, 2009-10 chair
Anchorage Chamber of Commerce

Sami Glascott, MPA, president
Anchorage Chamber of Commerce



March 29, 2010

Gov. Sean Parnell
State of Alaska
P.O. Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811-0001

Dear Gov. Parnell,

I am the owner of MSI Communications, a full service advertising agency serving clients in the oil and gas, mining, transportation and tourism industries. I am very concerned about the livelihood of the cruise industry as tourism represents one third of my annual revenues and helps me sustain fulltime employment for my 22 employees.

2009 was a very difficult year for our firm and I am not much more optimistic about 2010. I laid off three full time professional staff due to slow economic conditions and complete uncertainty as a small business owner that we would be able to weather the storm. Every one of our tourism clients made dramatic cuts to their advertising budgets and our annual media purchasing was cut in half. Additional cuts were made as natural attrition occurred and we were forced to absorb the workload.

Critics of the cruise industry say that tourism jobs are seasonal and low paying. These jobs are important to our economy. In fact, more than twenty five years ago, I had one of those low paying jobs as the concierge at the local Holiday Inn. Today, I proudly serve many tourism clients and I own one of the busiest ad agencies in town.

For me, it's clear. When the cruise industry loses passengers, we all lose revenue, jobs, and livelihood. It's time to let the cruise industry know we are OPEN FOR BUSINESS and create an environment that encourages growth and sustainable development for all Alaska businesses.

I thank you for taking a stand on the needless \$50 head tax and encourage you to continue efforts to revive the economic health of the tourism industry.

Regards,

Laurie Fagnani
President / Owner
MSI Communications



ORSO

Brews Brothers, LLC
737 West 5th Ave.
Anchorage, AK 99501
Phone (907) 792-3761 Fax (907) 792-3740

March 29, 2010

Governor Sean Parnell
P.O. Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811-0001

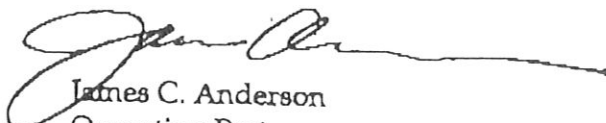
Sean,

Thank you for your leadership in the recent meetings with the cruise industry in Miami.

As one of the owners of the Glacier BrewHouse and ORSO in Anchorage we clearly see how the cruise industry is essential in the growth of the visitor industry in Alaska. At the Glacier BrewHouse and ORSO we currently employ approximately 230 full and part time employees. With the loss of the cruise ships in 2010 we will experience a substantial decline in our revenues which will also potentially impact our employees. Your administration's efforts to reverse this trend are extremely helpful in promoting a strong business community in Anchorage as well as Alaska.

Thank you for your efforts and please let me know if there is anything I can personally do to help your endeavors in supporting a clean, safe and environmentally sound growing cruise industry.

Sincerely,


James C. Anderson
Operating Partner

GASTINEAU PEAK
Elevation 3666'



Email: tour@gguiding.com
Website: StepIntoAlaska.com

Phone : 907.586.2666
FAX: 907.586.3990

1330 Eastaugh Way, #2
Juneau, Alaska 99801

March 30, 2010

Dear Governor Parnell,

Thank you for your support of Tourism Bill HB 422 & SB 311

The decline in visitors is hurting our businesses and our local communities. Decreased visitor spending is also causing a significant reduction in local revenue. To bring in more visitors, it is imperative the State address **two** issues. We must reduce the cost of operations in Alaska for the cruise industry and we must increase the State's marketing effort. We must take action now to turn around this decline, get our jobs back and rebuild our economy.

Other destinations are becoming more aggressive to attract visitors. We do not have the funds to compete with these destinations causing a loss of market share. Increased marketing will drive demand for more ships and bring in more air, marine highway, and road visitors.

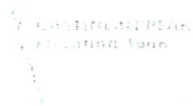
You have proposed a comprehensive approach to address the visitor decline and strengthen our communities, which will give our businesses a chance to survive. Your plan includes making Alaska more competitive and attracting more visitors through increased marketing.

Your plan is our best chance of turning things around.

I appreciate your support for Tourism Bill HB 422 & SB 311.

Sincerely,
Theresa Walden
Gastineau Guiding Company
Manager, Mt. Roberts Nature Center
1330 Eastaugh Way, #2
Juneau, AK 99801

(907) 586-2666



Email: tour@gguiding.com
Website: StepIntoAlaska.com

Phone : 907.586.2666
FAX: 907.586.3990

1330 Eastaugh Way, #2
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Date: March 30th, 2010

Attention: The Governor of the State of Alaska,


I wanted to write to thank you Governor Parnell for being the kind of leader that listens and seeks to solve our State's problems through the 'art of compromise'. The need for the state to show its support for the travel industry has been a long time coming and I can't tell you how good it felt to learn that you were traveling to Miami on our behalf, and introducing legislation to mitigate the effect of an arbitrary \$46 head tax. Thank you again.

I hope you will continue to support this process as it heads into the legislature. Some may be tempted or otherwise believe that we should try to do away with the head tax in its entirety. But history has recently shown us that the stalled negotiation during the Knowles administration and the industry's failure to recognize their responsibility in Alaska, has subsequently led to the ballot initiative and this pickle we are currently in. Others are steadfast in their support of the tax because they believe the industry should be penalized and deterred. But in doing so these people are hurting the people in Alaska who depend on this industry to provide for their family and well being.

The way forward lay in the middle. I just received an inquiry today from a woman interested in booking our Photo Safari tour. She asked some questions about the tour then stated how excited she was about coming (with her family) to see our beautiful state. Her comment that stuck with me was this, "We are not as thrilled about taking the cruise, but are really looking forward to seeing the state. The cruise just gets us there." This illustrates the symbiotic relationship we have with the cruise industry: A balance between the destination and the transportation. "Making the State open for business", is important, but should also include the creation of responsible environmental policy and the workings of sound fiscal policy.

Thank you again for your leadership and for your support of a sustainable tourism industry in Alaska.

Warm regards,


Jeremy Gieser

Director of Tours and Marketing
Gastineau Guiding Company
1330 Eastaugh Way, Suite 2
Juneau, AK 99801
Jeremy@gguiding.com
www.StepIntoAlaska.com



THE GREATER SITKA
chamber
OF COMMERCE

329 Harbor Drive, Suite 212
Mail: P.O. Box 638 • Sitka, Alaska 99835
(907) 747-8604 • Fax (907) 747-7413

Governor Sean Parnell
Alaska State Capitol Building
P.O. Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811-0001
Fax: 907-465-3532

April 1, 2010

Re: HB 422 and SB 311

Dear Governor Parnell,

On behalf of the Greater Sitka Chamber of Commerce board of directors, I am writing in support of your proposal to help increase tourism in Alaska through the Tourism Marketing Tax Credit.

As you are aware, Sitka is losing 40% of the cruise ship passenger numbers that we had last year. Together with the decline we experienced in 2009, the number of cruise ship passengers that we will see this year will barely be enough to sustain our existing businesses.

At least two of our better retail business owners have each been forced to shut down one of their stores in Sitka, and are establishing shops in other Southeast communities that still have adequate cruise traffic. This is not only difficult for these families - it represents a significant loss of jobs and revenue to our community.

Sitka is an attractive destination for independent travelers, and we are working hard to increase the number of visitors who come by plane or ferry to spend quality time in our town. At the same time, we recognize that two thirds of the people who return to Alaska came here first on a large cruise ship. With the low numbers of visitors in that category, we lose the ability to 'sell' them, while they're here, on the idea of returning for longer stays.

Sitka cannot solve these problems alone. We need the help and cooperation of the State of Alaska. Those of us in Sitka very much appreciated your trip to the Sea Trade convention in Florida and your willingness to talk with the cruise lines about an adjustment in the Cruise Ship Passenger Head Tax. A reduction in those fees would go a long way towards helping to attract the larger cruise lines back to Alaska and to Sitka.

The Tourism Marketing Tax Credit can have a significant impact on Alaska's ability to reach potential visitors all over the world. We need to show travelers that we are indeed open for business. Thank you for your efforts on behalf of Alaska's business owners and residents.

Sincerely,

Sheila Finkenbinder, Executive Director



March 30, 2010

The Honorable Sean Parnell
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811-0001

Dear Governor Parnell,

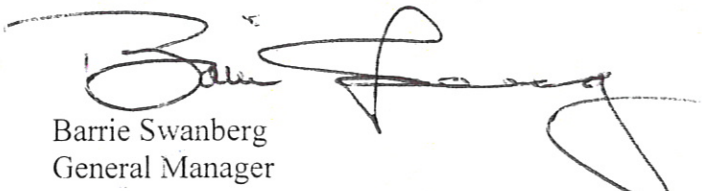
I would like to personally thank you for your strong support of the tourism industry in our state. Last year was really tough on the small business community and with the loss of over 140,000 cruise ship passengers this season; it looks like more dark days are ahead.

The decline in visitor spending is causing drastic layoffs all across Alaska not to mention the loss of community revenue in the form of bed taxes, sale taxes and other fees. Your plan in HB-422 and SB-311 will go a long way to stabilizing the business climate in Alaska and finally provide the needed funding for the State's marketing effort.

Some businesses will not survive this economic downturn and I pray that our company is not on that list. I truly feel there is reason for hope when the Governor of the State personally takes the fight to the cruise ship executives and then backs up his words with legislation. I want you to know that I'm totally behind your actions and deeply appreciate your commitment in helping solve this problem. Thank you again for all you have done and for your continued support.

Sincerely,

PHILLIPS CRUISES & TOURS, LLC


Barrie Swanberg
General Manager



March 31, 2010

The Honorable Sean Parnell
Governor, State of Alaska
Alaska State Capitol
P.O. Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811-0001

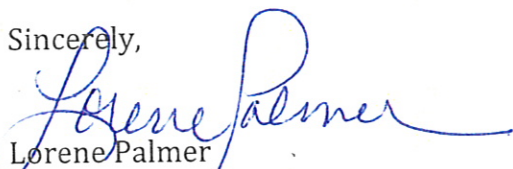
Dear Governor Parnell:

The board of directors of the Juneau Convention & Visitors Bureau and I would like to thank you for taking a pro-active stance on behalf of Alaska's tourism industry. We appreciate that you attended the Seatrade Cruise Shipping Miami event on behalf of Alaska and met with cruise industry leaders. We also appreciate your efforts to address the impacts of the head tax with a reduction in the passenger fee and supporting the corporate tax credit. Regardless if the head tax or the recession or a combination of both are the reason for declining cruise traffic, the end result is the same - the ships are leaving our state.

It will become increasingly clear this summer how vital the tourism industry is to our communities and that the economic benefits of the industry go far beyond the port cities. The loss of jobs and tax revenues in 2010 is going to be significant, but we are hopeful that changes to the 2006 tax initiative and an improving economy will turn things around in 2011.

The Juneau Convention & Visitors Bureau is encouraged by and grateful for your interest, support and leadership to find solutions to the issues facing the visitor industry and taking steps to improve Alaska's economy.

Sincerely,


Lorene Palmer
President/CEO

JCVB Board of Directors:

Jeffra Clough, Eaglecrest Ski Area
Bob Janes, Gastineau Guiding Company
Nancy Woizeschke, Alaskan Brewing Company
Jill Ramiel, Silverbow Inn
Christa Hagan, Holland America/Princess Tours - Alaska
Holly Johnson, Wings Airways
Rick Kasnick, The Island Pub
Richard Burns, Alaska Broadcast Communications, Inc.
Steve Hamilton, Westmark Baranof
Craig Jennison, NorthStar Trekking
Lynda Foreman, Juneau Travelodge

VISITOR INFORMATION

101 Egan Drive
Juneau, Alaska 99801
888-581-2201
(907) 586-2201
Fax (907)-586-6304

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

One Sealaska Plaza, Suite 305
Juneau, Alaska 99801
(907) 586-1737
Fax (907) 586-1449
e-mail: info@traveljuneau.com
www.traveljuneau.com

cc: Ms. Susan Bell, Special Staff Assistant



RESOLUTION # 01-10

A RESOLUTION BY KODIAK ISLAND CONVENTION VISITORS BUREAU URGING THE ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE TO SUPPORT THE PASSAGE OF THE "ALASKA TOURISM MARKETING TAX CREDIT" BILL (SB138 / HB 167) THAT PROVIDES ADDITIONAL TOURISM MARKETING FUNDING.

WHEREAS, the travel industry is one of the three largest private sector contributors to Alaska's economy, by generating over 1.7 billion in direct expenditures annually, and have an economical impact of over 3.4 billion dollars annually; and

WHEREAS, many local jobs and local economies are dependent upon the visitor industry; and

WHEREAS, the visitor industry contributes 200 million dollars annually to local and states taxes; and

WHEREAS, the state will see a decline for the second year in a row of summer visitors, and thereby a loss of jobs and revenue to local businesses, many of which are small, Alaskan-owned; and

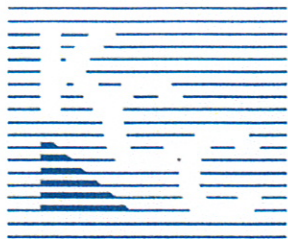
WHEREAS, the national and international tourism budget for promoting Alaska has been less than twelve (12) million for the last two years; and

WHEREAS, the travel industry has stated for several years that a meaningful marketing promotion budget should exceed 20 million dollars.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the Kodiak Island Convention and Visitors Bureau urges the State of Alaska Legislature to pass Senate Bill 138 / House Bill 167 which would allow defined travel-related business activities to receive a credit against their tax due for a cash contribution to the State of Alaska Travel Industry Marketing Program.

PASSED and APPROVED by the KODIAK ISLAND CONVENTION VISITORS BUREAU this 11 day of March, 2010.

Katie Oliver, Chairperson, KICVB Board of Directors



**KODIAK
CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE**

100 E. Marine Way, Suite 300, Kodiak Alaska 99615 • (907) 486-5557 • FAX: (907) 486-7605
www.kodiak.org • Email: chamber@kodiak.org

Kodiak Chamber of Commerce

RESOLUTION NUMBER 03-10-01

**A RESOLUTION OF THE KODIAK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE SUPPORTING
SENATE BILL 138 AND HOUSE BILL 167 "ALASKA TOURISM MARKETING TAX
CREDIT" THAT PROVIDES ADDITIONAL TOURISM MARKETING FUNDING.**

WHEREAS, the Kodiak Chamber of Commerce is dedicated to Kodiak's future; and.

WHEREAS, the Kodiak Chamber of Commerce recognizes the importance and contributions of the visitor industry to the local economy; and

WHEREAS, the travel industry is one of the three largest private sector contributors to Alaska's economy; and

WHEREAS, many local jobs and local economies are dependent upon the visitor industry; and

WHEREAS, the state will realize a decline for the second year in a row of visitors, and thereby a loss of jobs and revenue to local businesses, many of which are small, Alaskan-owned.

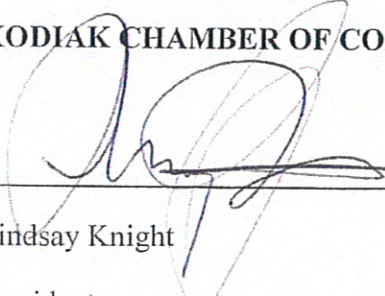
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Kodiak Chamber of Commerce encourages the Alaska Legislature to pass SB 138/ HB 167 which would allow defined travel-related business activities to receive a credit against their tax due for a cash contribution to the State of Alaska Travel Industry Marketing Program.

Passed and approved by the Board of Directors of the Kodiak Chamber of Commerce this
23 day of March 2010.

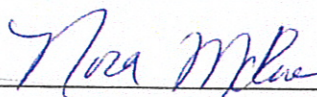
Signed this 23 day of March 2010.

KODIAK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

ATTEST:


Lindsay Knight

President



Nora McRae

Secretary to the Board

Dedicated to Kodiak's Economic Future



April 2, 2010

Governor Sean Parnell
State of Alaska

Dear Mr. Parnell,

I wish to take this opportunity to voice my support for Tourism Bills HB 422 and SB 311.

I have been in the hospitality industry in Alaska since 1994 and during that time have witnessed both good times and bad. I was very disappointed to see the state eliminate the marketing effort and fall to the back of the pack with respect to tourism marketing funding. Many states, as you well know, spend MUCH more than Alaska to attract visitors. Some say that the state markets itself since it is so beautiful, abundant and unique. This is simply not true as evidenced by the decline in tourism visitation growth after the state reduced its funding for marketing. This was during a time of economic growth. Now that times are tough, it is even more important to renew the marketing effort of the State of Alaska.

Tourism is an important industry for the state. The contributions in terms of tax revenues and employment justify investment in tourism marketing. I strongly support increased tourism marketing expenditures by the State of Alaska.

The other issue, which is just as important, is the proposal to realign the head tax. This tax has had a direct impact in Haines, reducing cruise ship visitation. This segment of the tourism industry in Haines is crucial to its survival and prosperity and this effort (to reduce the tax) will have a positive effect on the community.

In summary, let me applaud your efforts to breathe a bit of life in to this long-neglected segment of the Alaska economy. I am happy to see that you are interested in helping the tourism industry survive.

Sincerely,

Jeff Butcher
Owner
Hotel Halsingland

POST OFFICE BOX 1649
HAINES, ALASKA 99827

CALL TOLL FREE 800-542-6363

Reservations@HotelHalsingland.com
www.HotelHalsingland.com

TELEPHONE (907) 766-2000
FAX (907) 766-2060



The hotel
Captain Cook

939 W. 5TH AVENUE, ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501
PHONE (907) 276-6000
SALES/CATERING PHONE (907) 343-2207
FAX (907) 343-2211
RESERVATIONS FAX (907) 343-2298
ACCOUNTING OFFICE FAX (907) 343-2262

April 2, 2010

Governor Sean Parnell
Sean.parnell@alaska.gov

Dear Governor Parnell,

I applaud your effort to address the serious decline in visitor traffic this summer by introducing the Tourism Bills HB 422 and SB 311.

Alaska is facing an economic crisis! With the redeployment of three cruise ships this season, our port communities including South-central Alaska and Fairbanks will experience a decline in passenger visitation that will hurt Alaskan businesses. There will be a reduction in tax receipts; decreased visitor spending and jobs will be lost! We must reduce the cost of operations in Alaska for the cruise industry and we must increase our marketing efforts.

Thanks for your support.

If I can be of any assistance in helping the passage of your bill this session please call me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wally".

Walter J. Hickel Jr.
President



ALASKA RAPTOR CENTER

Our mission is to rehabilitate injured bald eagles and other birds of prey, to educate the public and to conduct bald eagle research.

March 30, 2010

Board of Directors

Paula Scott
Board Chairman
Principal, Scott Insurance
Silverdale, WA

Diana Fowler
Vice Chair
Volunteer Bird Handler
Gig Harbor, WA

Roger Hames
Secretary / Treasurer
President, Hames
Corporation
Sitka, AK

John Litten
President, Sitka Tours
Sitka, AK

Jeff Davis
President
Blue Cross Blue Shield
of Alaska
Anchorage, AK

Bill Royce
Attorney at Law
Anchorage, AK

Sam Kito
President
Kito Inc.
Juneau, AK

Bill MacKay
Sr. V.P.
Alaska Airlines
Anchorage, AK

Ral West
Sitka, AK/Maui, HI

Linda Huston
Director, Southeast Alaska
and Yukon
Holland America &
Gray Line of Alaska
Seattle, WA

Rebecca Branson
Business Manager
Anchorage, AK

Governor Sean Parnell
P.O. Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811-0001

Dear Governor Parnell,

I am writing to voice my support of HB 422 and SB 311.

Sitka has already lost many jobs to the reduction in visitor numbers and 2010 will prove to be disastrous to many small businesses. Although many of those jobs may be seasonal in nature, they are important to our economy.

To bring in more visitors, it is imperative the State address **two** issues. We must reduce the cost of operations in Alaska for the cruise industry and we must increase the State's marketing effort.

Alaska needs to have our "open for business" sign back on. The high cost of taxes and other mandates on the cruise industry has made Alaska no longer competitive in the global market. While we have been busy coming up with more expenses, other areas have been courting the cruise lines with lower costs and a welcoming atmosphere.

In addition to addressing tax policies, Alaska **must** increase its marketing. Other destinations are becoming more aggressive to attract visitors. We do not have the funds to compete with these destinations causing a loss of market share. Increased marketing will drive demand for more ships and bring in more air, marine highway, and road visitors.

I wholeheartedly support this legislation. We need to stop bickering over small details and get something started before we lose another visitor season.

Thank you for the support you have shown us.

Regards,

Debbie Reeder
Executive Director

March 30, 2010

The Honorable Governor Sean Parnell
Governor of Alaska
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Governor Parnell:

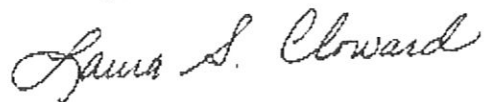
The Seward Chamber of Commerce, Conference and Visitors Bureau would like to thank you for your efforts to strengthen Alaska's economy through tourism marketing and partnership with the cruise line industry. We applaud your travel to Miami and your willingness to engage with the cruise industry, and important facet of Seward's economy.

On March 15th, the Seward Chamber Board of Directors approved Resolution 2010-03 urging the Alaska State Legislature to support the passage of the Alaska Tourism Marketing Tax Credit bill (SB 138/HB 167). Since our passage of Resolution 2010-03, we were pleased to see your proposed legislation introduced into both the State Senate and House, legislation which both encourages investment into tourism marketing and sustains jobs by reducing the cost of doing business in Alaska.

It is critical in today's economy that the State take action to help our businesses remain viable and retain those jobs tied directly and indirectly to tourism. Seward is fortunate to have a diversified economy; tourism plays an important role in that balance. Beyond seasonal employment, this impact is year-round: government positions tied to Kenai Fjords National Park; a rail line that supports not only seasonal passenger travel, but year-round coal export and barge activities; cruise ship-capable berths and terminal facilities that support cargo dockings, AMHS maintenance, and visits by military vessels; and purchase of locally-processed commercial fish.

We fully support your respective bills, SB311 and HB422, which, in addition to implementing a tourism tax credit, goes a step further by reducing the fees associated with cruise visitors traveling to our great state. Thank you for your leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laura S. Cloward". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid, with a large initial 'L'.

Laura Cloward, Executive Director
Seward Chamber of Commerce

cc: Alaska State Legislature

From: Frank Flavin [flavin@alaska.net]
Sent: Tuesday, March 30, 2010 12:05 PM
To: sean.parnell@alaska.gov
Subject: Tourism Bill HB 422 & SB 311-Frank Flavin Photographer

Dear Governor Parnell,

Our sincere thanks to you for visiting with the cruise industry in Florida.
One on one communication is no doubt the best way to understand everyones point of view.

Additionally we thank for your proposal to change legislation to:

Reduce the \$46.00 head tax to \$34.50
Provide credit for local head taxes.
Require the state to review tax rates every three years to help ensure funds are aligned with infrastructure needs.
Allow tourism revenue be reinvested to marketing Alaska, through a corporate tax credit.
Adequately fund the State's travel marketing program.
Provide for a stable marketing funding model.
Making Alaska more competitive.
Resolve legal challenges.

Competition and add on taxes is a large factor.
Here are some current competition budgets:

Hawaii	2010 Budget	71.4 Million	
Alberta,Canada	2010 Budget	71 Million	
British Columbia	2010 Budget	50 Million	
Mexico	2006 Budget	150 Million	Unable to find 2010 Budget-Tight Lipped.

Alaska's budget of 11.7 Million is not much of a comparison or a competitor.

My family has been involved with tourism in Alaska for over 25 years and since the Cruise Tax of 2006 our business, our bread & butter, has declined due to increased marketing from other tour destinations and withdrawal of marketing dollars by existing companies who must move there operations to less restrictive and more profitable locations.

We sincerely hope that the legislators will listen to your proposals to HB 422 & SB 311.

Thank you for trying to make Alaska the best it can be for all Alaskans.

Sincerely,

Frank P. Flavin
Alaskan resident since 1968

Frank Flavin, Photographer
Flavin Photography
907.561.1606
flavin@alaska.net
flavinphotography.com

CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA
RESOLUTION NO. 10-10

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA URGING THE ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE TO SUPPORT THE PASSAGE OF THE "ALASKA TOURISM MARKETING TAX CREDIT" BILL (SB138 / HB 167) THAT PROVIDES ADDITIONAL TOURISM MARKETING FUNDING

WHEREAS, the travel industry is one of the three largest private sector contributors to Alaska's economy, by generating over 1.7 billion in direct expenditures annually; and

WHEREAS, many local jobs and local economies are dependent upon the visitor industry; and

WHEREAS, the visitor industry contributes over 200 million dollars annually to local and state taxes and fees; and

WHEREAS, the state will see a decline for the second year in a row of summer visitors, and thereby a loss of jobs and revenue to local businesses, many of which are small, Alaskan-owned; and

WHEREAS, the national and international tourism budget for promoting Alaska has been less than twelve (12) million for the last two years; and

WHEREAS, the travel industry has stated for several years that a meaningful marketing promotion budget should exceed 20 million dollars; and

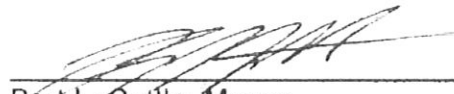
WHEREAS: A competing state such as Hawaii will expend 80 million dollars for tourism promotion and marketing activities.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA THAT:

The City Council of the City of Valdez urges the State of Alaska Legislature to pass Senate Bill 138 / House Bill 167 which would allow defined travel-related business activities to receive a credit against their corporate income tax due for a contribution to the State of Alaska Travel Industry Marketing Program

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA THIS 1st DAY OF MARCH, 2010.

CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA


Bert L. Cottle, Mayor

ATTEST:


Sheri L. Pierce, MMC, City Clerk



From: Ann Reddig [mailto:annreddig@hotmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 30, 2010 1:43 PM
To: Governor Sean Parnell (GOV sponsored)
Subject: Other

Title: Ms.
FIRSTNAME & LASTNAME: Ann Reddig
MAILING ADDRESS: po BOX 100421
CITY: anchorage
STATE: alaska
ZIP: 99510
TELEPHONE: (907) 222-7658
EMAIL: annreddig@hotmail.com
Topic: Other
YOUR COMMENTS:

March 30, 2010

State of Alaska

Juneau, AK

I wish to offer my support for your proposal addressing the issue of the decline of visitor tourism. I was opposed to Measure 2 when it was on our ballot. We have witnessed the cruise line reduction of business in Alaska. Your plan would make us more competitive and help turn things back to the right direction.

Tourism is extremely important to Alaska. Marketing is a key to tourism. Making our location attractive to the cruise lines is very important.

Push this agenda through!

Sincerely,

Ann Reddig

Secretary/Treasurer

IATSE Local 918

From: Karen Hess [mailto:riveradventures@aptalaska.net]
Sent: Tuesday, March 30, 2010 4:13 PM
To: Governor Sean Parnell (GOV sponsored)
Subject: Other

Title: Mrs.
FIRSTNAME & LASTNAME: Karen Hess
MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box 556
CITY: Haines
STATE: Ak
ZIP: 99827
TELEPHONE: 907-766-2050
EMAIL: riveradventures@aptalaska.net
Topic: Other
YOUR COMMENTS: Dear Governor Parnell,

I would like to thank you for introducing a bill to help the tourism industry by reducing the head tax. Although the economy of Alaska reaches far and wide, from Oil to Tourism, we are but one heart beat. Without every aspect of the economy, when it rings in the cash register, it is one more heart beat for Alaska. I appreciate your efforts of traveling to Florida and meeting with the cruise lines and SeaTrade. I urge you to stay strong and keep the faith, even though you may get opposition from special interest groups. Remember, those groups are people whose agenda is simply to get rid of the cruise industry altogether. My husband and I were with the group from Alaska ACT that met with you in January. As my husband said to you at that time, "Our little town of Haines is depending on you". So, thank you for your time that you have taken to meet with the cruise lines and we do appreciate your interest. If you can get the bill through, we will do what we do best, show them the real Alaska.

The last thing we want to hear is "Alaska is no longer open for business".

In addition to addressing tax policies, Alaska must increase its marketing. Other destinations are becoming more aggressive to attract visitors. We do not have the funds to compete with these destinations causing a loss of market share. Increased marketing will drive demand for more ships and bring in more air, marine highway, and road visitors.

Sincerely,

Karen M. Hess

From: Gary Sommerfeld [mailto:gsommerfeld@26glaciers.com]

Sent: Friday, March 26, 2010 12:30 PM

To: Governor Sean Parnell (GOV sponsored)

Subject: International Relations & Trade

Title: Mr.

FIRSTNAME & LASTNAME: Gary Sommerfeld

MAILING ADDRESS: Box 110588

CITY: Anchorage

STATE: Alaska

ZIP: 99511

TELEPHONE: 529-9072

EMAIL: gsommerfeld@26glaciers.com

Topic: International Relations & Trade

YOUR COMMENTS: Good job on the bill to reduce Cruise ship taxes. I hope you can get it passed before we lose them completely.

IP: 209.124.141.103

From: Louis Juergens [mailto:info@akwhalewatching.com]
Sent: Friday, March 26, 2010 9:54 AM
To: Governor Sean Parnell (GOV sponsored)
Subject: Economic Development

Title: Mr.
FIRSTNAME & LASTNAME: Louis Juergens
MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box 33311
CITY: Juneau
STATE: Alaska
ZIP: 99803
TELEPHONE: 907-209-3233
EMAIL: info@akwhalewatching.com
Topic: Economic Development
YOUR COMMENTS: Govenor Parnell,

I just wanted to applaud the job that you have done in listening to the tourism industry and proposing a middle ground alternative to the head-tax initiative. I run a small family tour business in Juneau. The capacity reduction this year is going to be tough to deal with, but with you at the helm, our future looks much better.

The original inititive was written by people who want to push tourism out of Alaska. Thank you for understanding the big picture and for supporting our industry! If you ever want to go out on a fishing trip or whale watching we'd love to take you out on a complimentary trip.

May God bless you and your family,

Louis Juergens

IP: 24.237.7.163