



## **Organized Village of Kake**

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**(Federally Recognized Tribal Government serving the Kake, Alaska area)**



**January 30, 2013**

**Representative Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins**

**State Capitol Room 426**

**Juneau AK, 99801**

**RE: HB 80 and SB 29, the Cruise Ship Wastewater Discharge Bills**

**Dear Representative Kreiss-Tomkins,**

The Organized Village of Kake (OVK) is a federally recognized Indian Tribe under federal law organized pursuant to the authority of the Federal Indian Reorganization Acts of 1934 & 1936 with the IRA Council as the duly elected governing body formed under its *Constitution & By-Laws*. The Organized Village of Kake (OVK) was organized under the Indian Reorganization Act with the current Constitution & By-Laws ratified by the local native population in 1947. Our community is located on Kupreanof Island and our tribal membership of depends on locally harvested food such as salmon, halibut, shell fish and other sea life.

We are writing in regard to the above-referenced bills and concern that contaminants will enter our food sources through partially treated human waste, dissolved copper & zinc and ammonia, as well as the very real danger of the introduction of invasive species.

These bills will reverse a 2006 citizens' initiative to require cruise ships to treat their wastewater at the point of discharge to meet state water quality standards. The bills will make it easier for cruise ships to dump pollutants into the Inside Passage by permitting for "mixing zones" to dilute partially treated human waste, dissolved copper and zinc, and ammonia. Those mixing zones are salt waters in the Inside Passage that people throughout Southeast Alaska depend upon.

**Our concerns:**

- Dissolved copper has known harmful effects on the ability for salmon to smell their natal stream; if there is too much copper in the salt water or fresh water, salmon have a hard time finding their way back to their spawning grounds
- Dissolved copper has known harmful effects on the shells and exoskeletons of oysters and crabs
- Ammonia effectively feeds the organisms that create algal blooms; with increased ammonia comes increased algal blooms. With increased algae blooms come increased rates of PSP in shellfish.
- High levels of ammonia and algae blooms also negatively impact the health of kelps and seaweeds.

- Discharging these wastes in gradually warming oceans provides easier opportunities to introduce invasive species in our waters.

What we want to hear from you:

- Can the Department of Environmental Conservation assure us that discharging partially treated human waste, dissolved copper, and ammonia into "mixing zones" in Inside Passage waters will not have harmful impacts on salmon, crab, oysters, seaweeds, and kelp?
- Can DEC assure us that these discharged wastes will not introduce invasive species to Southeast Alaska?

If DEC cannot meet these assurances, then the Organized Village of Kake does not support SB29 and HB80 and recommends that you, as our elected official, not support them, either.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of our comments.

Regards,



Joel Jackson  
OVK Vice-President

CC to House Resource Committee:

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