



January 25, 2013

The Honorable Cathy Giessel
Senate Resources Chair
State Capitol Room #427
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: SB 29 – An Act relating to the regulation of wastewater discharge from commercial passenger vessels in state waters.

Dear Senator Giessel:

On behalf of Lindblad Expeditions, I would like to express our support for Senate Bill 29, regarding Commercial Passenger Vessel permits.

Lindblad Expeditions has been operating US-flag small commercial passenger vessels in Southeast Alaska since 1982. We currently own and operate the US-flag 62-passenger vessels *National Geographic Sea Lion* and *National Geographic Sea Bird*.

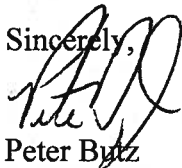
The emphasis of our voyages in Southeast Alaska is to take our passengers to the remote and pristine areas and give them an up-close and hands-on experience of hiking, kayaking, whale watching and wildlife viewing in the company of highly qualified naturalist guides. We also have onboard an Undersea Specialist who dives to take video of the ecosystem below the surface so that our passengers can get the fullest possible experience of the Southeast Alaska environment. Without a doubt the greatest asset of our program in Southeast Alaska is the wild and unspoiled environment above and below the surface, and protecting this environment is critical for the long-term success of our business.

We greatly appreciate the Legislature's efforts in creating a science panel to evaluate current water treatment technology, other available water treatment technology, and the impact on the environment. As the owner and operator of small commercial passenger vessels, we are required to submit a Best Management Practices plan for alternative terms and conditions of vessel discharges. Currently that plan is approved for three years. Extending this to five years as is proposed would be a welcome change, as we are typically planning the deployment of our ships and capital improvements on a three to five year cycle. Also, in light of the panel's substantial doubts that new technology will be available in the foreseeable future, the removal of the 2015 sunseting of the Best Management Practices alternative for small commercial passenger vessels makes sense, and would remove a large area of uncertainty that is now just a little more than two years away.

Given the panel's findings, we support the Governor's effort to amend the statutes, and we urge the Legislature to consider and pass SB 29. Having a reasonable permitting process in place, with a reasonable planning horizon is critical to our being able to plan for the future of our business in Alaska and the jobs that it supports.

On behalf of Lindblad Expeditions we thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Butz", written over the word "Sincerely,".

Peter Butz
Chief Operating Officer
Lindblad Expeditions, Inc.