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Sponsor Statement
House Joint Resolution 13
"Urge Exemption for Cruise Ships"

On February 4, 2021, Canada's Transport Ministry announced they would prohibit large passenger vessels from transiting their waters until February 2022. Under the Passenger Vessel Services Act (PVSA), large, foreign-hulled vessels are required to stop in a foreign port, like Canada, at least once during their voyage to or from Alaska. The announcement from Transit Canada coupled with the PVSA requirement would prevent Alaska from receiving cruise ships during the 2021 summer season.

Alaska's visitor industry, particularly cruise tourism, is the cornerstone of Southeast Alaska's economy. Prior to the pandemic, Alaska had over 2.2 million visitors in 2019. Cruise ships bring roughly half of the visitors to our state. While many businesses were able to hibernate for 2020, the threat of no or limited business in 2021 could do irreparable harm.

Our congressional delegation has been hard at work to find a way to save Alaska's 2021 cruise season. If passed, HJR13 would signal the support of the Alaska State Legislature and would urge Congress and the President to take actions necessary to allow for cruise ships to visit Alaskan ports.