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March 18, 2021

House Transportation Committee Chair Representative Hopkins

RE: House Joint Resolution NO. 13

To Whom it May Concern,

The Kodiak Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors fully supports House Joint Resolution NO. 13 for the urging of the US Congress to exempt cruise ships from certain provisions of the Passenger Vessel Services Act.

Currently, without exemptions, Canadian government decisions effectively prevent an Alaskan cruise season. Exemptions from certain provisions of the Passenger Vessel Services Act, that would be time limited request, would allow cruise ships to waive the requirement of stopping in a foreign port. The United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has published stringent COVID safety protocols for responsible cruising in American waters.

Tourism, including cruise ships are an essential part of many coastal community economies, including Kodiak. Southeast Alaska would lose income from approximately 1,000,000 passengers, with Kodiak losing income from six ships accounting for under 10,000 passengers. Having no cruise ships in 2021 as was the case in 2020 will be devastating for Southeast Alaska and also have an economic impact on Kodiak.

The Kodiak Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors urges passage of House Joint Resolution NO. 13.

Yours in economic prosperity,

Sarah Phillips

Sarah Phillips
Executive Director
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Julie Bonney
Julie Bonney (Mar 18, 2021 13:16 AKDT)

Julie Bonney
President
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HJR 13 Letter of Support

Final Audit Report

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