

STATE CAPITOL  
P.O. Box 110001  
Juneau, AK 99811-0001  
907-465-3500



550 West Seventh Avenue, Suite 1700  
Anchorage, AK 99501  
907-269-7450

Governor Mike Dunleavy  
STATE OF ALASKA

May 16, 2023

The Honorable Cathy Tilton  
Speaker of the House  
Alaska State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 208  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Speaker Tilton:

Under the authority of Article III, Section 18, of the Alaska Constitution, I am transmitting a bill relating to commercial passenger vessel environmental compliance.

This bill is an overhaul of the commercial passenger vessel environmental compliance program created by ballot initiative in 2006. It replaces the Ocean Ranger on-board cruise ship monitoring program with a program designed by the Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) water and air quality technical staff that will be more efficient and effective in protecting Alaska's environment. It changes the statutory environmental compliance fee applied to commercial passenger vessels and provides options for an owner or operator of a commercial passenger vessel to reduce the environmental compliance fee by participating in electronic monitoring of wastewater discharge, applying for a rebate based on the vessel's total number of unoccupied lower berths in a year, or both. The bill also adjusts wastewater discharge definitions and aligns the commercial passenger vessel environmental compliance program within DEC's regulatory structure.

The proposal has delayed effective dates, particularly for small commercial vessels, that will allow for uniform implementation and time for the industry to come into compliance with the new law. It would remove and repeal many aspects of the existing chapter, while retaining the core structure and enabling DEC to adopt and implement regulations.

Finally, the bill creates a new wastewater infrastructure grant fund that would be available for municipal port communities that serve commercial passenger vessels to apply for and receive partial funding toward establishing, upgrading, or improving wastewater treatment systems or facilities.

I urge your prompt and favorable action on this measure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mike Dunleavy".

Mike Dunleavy  
Governor

Enclosure