

February 27, 2009

Representative Cathy Munoz
State Capitol, Room 409
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Representative Munoz,

I am writing to request your support for 2009 legislation that will support tourism initiatives and marketing funds. Specifically, I urge your support with HB 134, *"An Act relating to the terms and conditions of commercial passenger vessel permits for the discharge of graywater, treated sewage, and other waste water; and providing for an effective date."*, sponsored by Rep. Harris.

My interest in your impact on Alaska Legislation is both personal and professional. I grew up in Juneau, and returned here after college knowing I had an opportunity for employment in the hospitality and tourism industry. The ability to work in Juneau for the summer months, while attending university, contributed to my decision to return to Juneau after attaining my degree. I am grateful for the positive impacts the tourism industry has on Juneau; from its economic contributions to the city and local businesses, to the increase in hospitality and commodity choice for locals. It is the vitality and sustainability of the tourism industry that has allowed me and my peers to continue to afford to live and work in Juneau, and Alaska at large.

Through marketing dollars and responsible regulation, Alaska can continue to be a proud and appreciative host to the cruise lines. The cruise industry generates \$1.35 billion in direct and indirect purchases and wages to the state. They provide \$100 million in revenue to state and local governments; support 14,500 Alaska jobs; spend more than \$70 million to market the state; and contributes \$2.3 million annually to Alaska nonprofit organizations.

Furthermore, I ask you to support HB 134, to provide the ADEC with the ability to set standards of regulation of cruise ship wastewater measurements to a scientific level; one that is reasonable and achievable. The cruise lines have proven their ability to keep their discharge clean above and beyond the regulatory standards as they were prior to 2006; and cleaner than measurements taken in our own municipalities. Please consider your influence to support and create reasonable and achievable legislation for these businesses.

By supporting funding initiatives for Alaska Marketing and supporting reasonable and responsible Regulations with regards to cruise ship wastewater treatment, the Alaska visitor industry will remain a sustainable and profitable investment.

Sincerely,

Christa McMullen Hagan