

Subject: Alaska Tourism Industry

Date: 3/12/09 10:16:51 AM

From: Pamela Manderson

To:senator\_lesil\_mcguire@legis.state.ak.us

Dear Senator McGuire,

My family and I moved to Alaska when I was just three years old, and though all of my immediate family members have since moved away, Alaska is my home. I have gone to school in Alaska and am a graduate of the University of Alaska Anchorage. My husband and I consciously choose to raise our two children here.

For the past 12 years I have worked for a small, Alaskan-owned company, All Alaska Tours. In cooperation with our travel vendor partners from all over the state, the mission of All Alaska Tours is to provide tour packages and services for visitors from all around the world who are visiting Alaska.

I wish to ask for your support of the \$9 million Governor Palin has included in her Operating Budget to continue to support Alaska's tourism marketing efforts. Though \$9 million is just the start of what Alaska needs to be competing with other destinations on a global level, the industry cannot even begin to accomplish its goals without these funds.

I would also appreciate your support of HB 167. It is more important now than ever to be reinvesting Alaska tourism revenues back into Alaska tourism marketing. From the small mom and pop vendors who rely so much on Alaska's four-month peak tourism season, to the multi-million dollar cruise line industry, we are all seeing the effects of the national economic downturn. It is crucial for Alaska to continue to support the Alaska travel industry and all that it means to our great state.

Please give your support to Alaska's tourism industry.

Sincerely,

Pamela Manderson