

eComment
Mayor's Veto of Ordinance 2019-09

Adrienne Sweeney

Location:

Submitted At: 11:41pm 07-02-19

TO: Mayor Charlie Pierce
Members of the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly
FROM: Adrienne Sweeney, Driftwood Inn, Innkeeper
DATE: July 1, 2019

I support the veto of Ordinance 2019-09. My husband and I own the Driftwood Inn & RV Park located in Old Town Homer. I want to thank you for your veto of this Ordinance. I am grateful for the veto because I believe that I would have had to shut down during the winter and lay off my staff like many other hotels do.

I realized that many folks don't believe it will not affect the lodging industry, but they haven't walked in my shoes for a day. Our margins are very slim, last year I tried to raise my rates just \$5 in order to give my staff raises and I ended up 5% down as a result.

I appreciate that you understand that a targeted tax on a specific services will hurt the related industry.

I appreciate that you realize and understand that we already have a bed tax as we are taxed differently than other industries on a per night, per room basis and NOT on a transaction basis. Lastly, I am thankful that you realize the importance our tourism industry (we contribute 25% + in sales tax dollars to the Borough) and that a bed tax will not help attract visitors. I encourage you to look at the sales tax dollars that the lodging industry already contributes; and understand the value of investing and supporting in small businesses who then can create jobs and additional sales tax revenue.

The recent fire that has continued to burn has been devastating to our business and tourism on the Peninsula. I know that I am not alone when I say you have given me new hope that we will be able to stay open all winter and hopefully survive the downturn this fire season has created. I hope that Assembly Members will realize the economic impact an additional targeted bed tax would have on all of tourism and uphold the Mayor's veto.

Thank you for your consideration.

Adrienne
Adrienne Sweeney
Driftwood Inn, Innkeeper