

Blankenship, Johni

From: Kenai Peninsula Borough <webmaster@borough.kenai.ak.us>
Sent: Monday, October 30, 2017 4:42 PM
To: BoroughAssembly
Subject: New Public Comment to Assembly Members

Your Name: H S Norwood

Your Email: rohobawr@alaska.net

Subject: Reintroduction of Bed Tax- BRAVO!

Message:

I am a resident of Nikiski.

I vehemently support the reintroduction of a pass through bed tax; it is time for the tourists to pay their fair share of supporting our infrastructure.

The outcome of combining the uniquely high railbelt electricity costs of HEA (25 cents/kwh) with property valuations that have steadily increased with no corresponding increase in services (at least for those of us employed in the private sector) and the simultaneous cut in AK permanent funds received have seriously tapped the disposable income of KPB residents. It is simply time for the visitors to fill the gap and pay for the resources/infrastructure that they expect to be here for their enjoyment.

As an avid KPB Assembly meeting radio listener/participant, this time around I have the following suggestions:

Please don't let the proposed ordinance get bogged down by lobbyists wanting guaranteed underwriting for their interests.

Guaranteed underwriting stymies cost cutting innovation.

Certainly the revenues will be used to support schools. But there's no need to codify how much. I 100% empathize with teachers receiving their temp notices because those of us in the private sector don't know what's going to happen 2 years from now either.

Certainly an unspecified fraction of the revenues should be used to support KPTMC. In return, the KPB Assembly should receive a verifiable set of indicators which confirm the KPTMC has used their allocation to persuade tourists to visit the KPB instead of Mat Valley or Anchorage. That common sense strategy will optimize this revenue stream and keep it growing! It will also help fill the hotel rooms of the high end hoteliers that are so concerned about the bed tax.

My point is that there is no need to codify which KPB entity receives exactly what from bed tax revenues in the proposed ordinance language. Don't allow the effort to become bogged down as has been done in the past.

Also: Make certain the official ordinance language clearly states the taxes will be borne by the visitors to the Kenai Peninsula, not the residents.

Lastly ...

During the Oct 4th "Conversation" on KDLL radio, Larry Persily challenged local residents to get involved with the passage of desired local legislation.

I am offering to be a foot soldier that helps spread the word on the benefits of a pass through bed tax.