

02019-09

**Turner, Michele**

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**Subject:** FW: <EXTERNAL-SENDER>Kenai Assembly Meeting - 5/7/2019 - Bed Tax  
**Attachments:** 2019 Kenai Bed Tax.docx

**From:** Fugere, Kai (HAP) [<mailto:kfugere@hagroup.com>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 07, 2019 10:55 AM  
**To:** Blankenship, Johni <[JBlankenship@kpb.us](mailto:JBlankenship@kpb.us)>  
**Subject:** <EXTERNAL-SENDER>Kenai Assembly Meeting - 5/7/2019 - Bed Tax

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Hello Johni,

My names Kai Fugere and I'm a Public Affairs Specialist here at Holland America Princess. I was inquiring to find out if the bed tax proposal is still on their agenda for tonight's Assembly meeting. If it is, how can I get a letter (attached) in the packet for the members?

**Kai Fugere**

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**From:** Kenai Peninsula Borough <webmaster@borough.kenai.ak.us>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 07, 2019 9:59 PM  
**To:** BoroughAssembly  
**Subject:** New Public Comment to Assembly Members

**Your Name:** hs norwood

**Your Email:** rohobawr@alaska.net

**Subject:** 5/7/2019 Meeting Comments

**Message:**

Sounds like a lot of problems would at least partially be solved with a BED TAX that could help fund schools. Good going Mr Bagley for bringing back " Bed Tax 5.0. "

A Bed Tax is of course a pass through tax that would not be paid by the borough residents.

Folks like me do not support Pierce's budgeted sales tax increase until AFTER the Bed Tax is in place. There is a BED TAX already in place in Anchorage, in Mat Valley, in Fairbanks, even in Seward yadda yadda yadda.. Frankly it is idiotic the KPB Assembly is still debating the issue.

An No "we" did not vote down the Bed Tax last year. "We" were not allowed to vote on Bed Tax 4.0 because it did not pass the KPB Assembly. The KBP Assembly did allow Bed Tax 3.0 to go to ballot but Navarre vetoed it.

The last time we were here (last year) if you listen to the transcript of the meetings you will hear one of the last anti-Bed Tax comments (probably Bannock) pleading to vote down putting the Bed Tax Initiative on ballot "because you know it will pass." Yes it will. Just do it. Put it on the ballot so we can vote on it. It is high time to have visitors pay for what they use.

The ruling on conflict of interest was justified. At the very minimum it was ethically the right thing to do. Too bad the state legislature ethics don't follow the example.

Pierce's comments that he does not want to increase property taxes to support schools is bewildering in that last fall he advocated building a school for 25 attendees of Kachemak Selo that would have forced KPB residents to pay "just \$20 per 100,000 value of your property." Fortunately the initiative was voted down last Fall by an alert electorate.

In summary: I do not support any sales tax or increase in property tax until after the Bed Tax is in place ... because I am tired of paying for tourists.

I do hope the Assembly overturns the Mayor's veto. Short term it sounds like overturning the veto will keep "golden teachers" from moving out while the Mayor and the KPBSD board glare at each other about who should spend a fund balance. THERE ARE REAL PEOPLE INVOLVED HERE. Do the right thing for 2019. And then get 100% behind the Bed Tax.

Fred's analogy that went something like " slope workers are being laid off so teachers should be cut " misses the salient differences between the private and public sectors.

The slope worker will buy a few toys. The teacher is providing a public service that is a "pay me a little now or a whole bunch more later in social costs." But you guys already know that.

Here's a last long comment before heading off to my youngest son's college graduation ... because the comments are directly related to tonight's meeting.

The KPB and KPBSD have been here before. I worked hard to keep Nikiski Elementary open and it was closed saving a whopping \$175,000 in bussing costs (of a then \$92 million budget) and cramming what is now Nikiski North Star full.

During the years KPBSD contract negotiations dragged on several teachers decided to 'teach to the rule." If you know anything about teaching that approach does not work.

The school district continued to be in disarray ... so WE LEFT. My oldest was graduated from South Anchorage high school and received a great (Outside) college scholarship. He just bought a home in Anchorage.

When we returned to the Kenai the KBPSD was improving under the new superintendent ... and better funding. I offered the same opportunity to my youngest son to finish in Anchorage. But by then Kenai Central had the right classes and focused, non-stressed teachers that could get him into the college of his choice and he decided to stay.

That being said, getting him to that point required attending 8 different schools while KPBSD was working through its funding difficulties. For the record, this is what it took::

Sears Elementary  
Aurora Borealis  
Soldotna Montessori  
Kaleidoscope  
Aquarian Charter School (Anch)  
Goldenview Middle School (Anch)

Kenai Middle School

Kenai Central High

Very few families have the resources we did to get the public education my son deserved.

So fund the KPBSD to the cap for 2019 and then get 100% behind the BED TAX.

Voters like me will be much more likely to approve additional revenue needs after the visitors are paying their fair share.