

02017-17

Blankenship, Johni

From: Kenai Peninsula Borough <webmaster@borough.kenai.ak.us>
Sent: Tuesday, July 18, 2017 7:14 PM
To: BoroughAssembly
Subject: New Public Comment to Assembly Members

Your Name: H S Norwood

Your Email: rohobawr@alaska.net

Subject: 7/17/2017 Bed Tax Discussion

Message:

Several years ago the Cruise Ship Industry launched a mega campaign against the \$50 per person head tax as if anybody purchasing an \$800 to \$1000 + cruise ticket would not do so because of a \$50 tax to cover the cost of hosting tourists.

Because of the cruise head tax, Homer has a bevy of GOOD bathrooms disbursed within the city and on the Spit that are used by the tourists. There are also improvements to parks that the children of tourists use because not everybody likes fishing.

The comments you have received tonight and will continue to receive from the hospitality owners that are living in yesteryear when the oil dollars were flowing indicate that they all need to wake up to recognize the existing fiscal realities.

Like the alarmist propoganda from the Cruise Industry a few years ago, the argument that a tourist who pays \$200 a night at their hotel will choose not to stay there when the tourist must pay an 8% bed tax ... which that same tourist would have to pay in a different Kenai Peninsula hotel ... makes no sense.

A visitor to the Kenai Peninsula comes to the Kenai Peninsula because there is wildlife viewing, whale watching, fishing, mountains, glaciers, world class hiking & canoeing & water rafting within a drivable distance. (If we take care of the environment) These natural wonders are not moving. To see them one must come here.

An 8% bed tax is not going to deter the visitor that wants to enjoy what the Kenai Peninsula has to offer and it is high time the visitor paid for their use of KPB resources.

I do not need a reply. The reds are running and you are in a meeting. Thank you for your service.

Blankenship, Johni

From: Michael Warburton <mjwarburton77@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 18, 2017 3:19 PM
To: Blankenship, Johni
Subject: Tourism Tax

Hi,

This is from Mike Warburton, owner of the Ocean Shores Hotel in Homer.
Below is a link to the South Dakota government site describing their
Tourism Tax.

http://dor.sd.gov/Taxes/Business_Taxes/Publications/PDFs/Tax%20Facts/Tourism.pdf

Thanks,
Mike W