

Introduced by: Mayor, Cooper
Date: 09/03/24
Action: Adopted as Amended
Vote: 8 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent

**KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH
RESOLUTION 2024-037**

**A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A TOURISM INDUSTRY WORKING GROUP TO
EVALUATE THE BALANCE BETWEEN POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE TOURISM-
RELATED IMPACTS ON KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH COSTS AND SERVICES**

WHEREAS, in recent years the question of a "bed tax" has been brought before the Assembly on multiple occasions unsuccessfully due to inadequate stakeholder processes and data gathering; and

WHEREAS, prior to moving forward with new policy for voter approval, the Assembly would benefit from community and industry engagement and economic data collection to evaluate the issue and consider various perspectives; and

WHEREAS, increased participation in local elections and an informed and engaged citizenry is of paramount importance in a democratic republic form of government; and

WHEREAS, a collaborative approach should also include the incorporated cities and affected service providers from the industry within the Kenai Peninsula Borough to find equitable solutions; and

WHEREAS, this working group will meet during the winter months and provide a report to the Assembly before the 2025 tourism season begins, thereby allowing full participating in this process;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH:

SECTION 1. That the Assembly hereby forms the Tourism Industry Working Group ("TIWG") and directs the TIWG to focus its meetings on evaluating tourism benefits and impacts on current Borough revenue, costs, and services; discussing potential options or ideas, and associated data, for ensuring that visitors are paying their fair share for services they use; and assessing the anticipated affects of a potential bed tax. The working group will provide a final written report to present to the Assembly.

SECTION 2. That the members of the working group will include seven voting members and three ex-officio non-voting members comprised as follows: three tourism-related industry representatives appointed by the Mayor and approved by the Assembly (3); four community members appointed by the Mayor and approved by the Assembly (4); and three ex-officio, non-voting members comprised of the Borough Mayor and two Assembly members appointed by the Assembly President to participate in the debate and discussion (3). Appropriate public notice will be given by the September 17, 2024 Assembly meeting describing how KPB residents can apply to be a tourism-related industry representative or community member appointee to the Tourism Industry Working Group.

SECTION 3. That all six incorporated cities within the Kenai Peninsula Borough are invited and encouraged to have a representative attend the working groups and join as a non-voting participant in this collaborative working group discussion.

SECTION 4. That the TIWG's first meeting may not occur prior to October 22, 2024 and the last meeting the working group must occur prior to April 15, 2025. Unless extended by the Assembly, the report of the working group must be provided to the Assembly by April 30, 2025.

SECTION 5. That, subject to availability, the working group will be staffed and noticed by the KPB's Clerk's Office, and Legal Department. Notice will be provided through the internet on the KPB website and posted at 144 N. Binkley St., Soldotna, AK 99669.

SECTION 6. That the working group is subject to the Alaska Open Meetings Act and will use Robert's Rules of Order to conduct business.

SECTION 7. That the working group is not authorized to act or communicate on behalf of the Borough other than to provide a written report containing its final recommendations to the Assembly.

SECTION 8. That this resolution takes effect immediately.

ADOPTED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH THIS 3RD DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2024.

Brent Johnson

Brent Johnson, Assembly President

ATTEST:

Michele Turner

Michele Turner, CMC, Borough Clerk



Yes: Cooper, Cox, Ecklund, Elam, Ribbens, Tunseth, Tupper, Johnson

No: None

Absent: Hibbert