Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly

MEMORANDUM

TO: Brent Johnson, Assembly President

Members, KPB Assembly

FROM: Kelly Cooper, Assembly Member

Peter A. Micciche, Mayor

DATE: August 22, 2024

SUBJECT: Resolution 2024-037, Establishing a Tourism Industry Working Group

to Evaluate the Balance Between Positive and Negative Tourism-Related

Impacts on Kenai Peninsula Borough Costs and Services (Mayor, Cooper)

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Since 2017 the question of a bed tax has been brought before the Assembly multiple times. The timing of the proposed ballot question inevitably occurs during the tourist season. Members of this industry have repeatedly asked to be part of the discussion and would like to participate in policy discussions that will have significant impacts on their industry. We believe a collaborative approach is in the best interests of all involved and is the only way to achieve stakeholder buy-in.

This Resolution will form a Tourism Industry Working Group (TISG) to evaluate tourism benefits and impacts on current revenue, costs and services and discuss potential options or ideas, and associated data, for ensuring that visitors are paying their fair share for services they use. The working group will provide a final written report to present to the Assembly.

Your consideration is appreciated.