

02017-17

**Subject:** FW: Kenai Assembly Bed Tax resolution

**From:** Gary Steele [mailto:info@8staralaska.com]

**Sent:** Thursday, August 03, 2017 8:44 PM

**To:** Blankenship, Johni <JBlankenship@kpb.us>; Turner, Michele <MicheleTurner@kpb.us>; Navarre, Mike <mnavarre@kpb.us>; Hibbert, Brent <bhibbert@kpb.us>; Schaefer, Jill <jschaefer@kpb.us>; Ogle, Wayne <wogle@kpb.us>; Bagley, Dale <dalebagley@kpb.us>; Welles, Stan <swelles@kpb.us>; Carpenter, Kenn <KCarpenter@kpb.us>; Fischer, Paul <pfischer@kpb.us>; Cooper, Kelly <kellycooper@kpb.us>; Dunne, Willy <WDunne@kpb.us>; Paul Ostrander <postrander@kenai.city>; Christine Cunningham <ccunningham@kenai.city>

**Cc:** Jessica Larsen <cooperlandingrentals@live.com>; visitseward@seward.com

**Subject:** Kenai Assembly Bed Tax resolution

To whom it concerns,

The resolution from the Kenai Assembly states that the "city does not receive any direct revenue from visitors to offset demands on public services..."

First of all, what public services have been identified that are over-utilized or underfunded because of visitors?

Second, I guess the Kenai Assembly members don;t dipnet, and aren't aware that the fees to do so have been going up each year, and are paid to the City of Kenai, supposedly to offset the public services that are provided- and/or just beach access,- and are DIRECT FEES FOR VISITOR SERVICES OR ACCESS.

Can someone please supply the data that supports the "demands on public services" that visitors generate, and a dollar amount to go with these, current funding levels, and needed additional revenue? What is the current level of revenue generated from visitors from the existing sales taxes?

It's more believable that the reason is the reduced municipal revenue sharing from the state- which means revenue EVERYONE previously benefited from, and if it needs to be replaced should come from EVERYONE - not just one particular type of business.

There are already existing sales taxes in place in the Borough and in cities. If revenue needs to be increased to replace state revenue, these should be increased.

If the need is for education, a separate School Tax could be instituted.

This proposed tax is simply unfair. Its a new Stamp Tax or Tea Tax.

Just because other cities have done it, doesn't mean the context is the same on the Kenai, nor that the Kenai should follow poor public policy just because someone else has done so. The Kenai has a chance to look after each other better, treat each other more fairly, and work together better than Los Anchorage.

Is there a different kind of political leadership on the Kenai?

Sincerely,

Gary Steele

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**From:** Brian Harrison <hhhomer@gci.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 02, 2017 6:02 PM  
**To:** Blankenship, Johni  
**Subject:** Proposed bed tax

Hello,

I am in support of a bed tax, even if it is just seasonal. We own a property on Maui and collect 13.5 percent in Hawaii taxes. Not one of our guests has ever addressed the tax as being too much, or have asked that we not charge it. We always pay a bed tax when we travel, both in the U.S. and definitely overseas. Most of the time we have no idea what the tax is - we just assume there will be a tax added to the stay cost and we pay little to no attention to the tax addition to our bill. We live fairly modestly, but a bed tax is just not something most people notice when paying their hotel bill. I just booked two different airbnb locations in Washington - 10 percent tax. That's a steep tax, but it certainly didn't deter me from going to Washington. That tax is part of what makes Washington a great place to visit. The hotel/bnb/innkeepers will not be hurt by a bed tax at all - and the tax benefits our local communities in a number of ways. We can continue services at a level that maintains a quality of life and safety.

Thank you,  
Suzanne Haines  
1065 Larkspur Ct  
Homer, AK 99603  
907 235 8922

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**From:** Chris Jacobson <fvajs@mtaonline.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 02, 2017 5:07 PM  
**To:** Blankenship, Johni  
**Subject:** Bed tax

As a full time Homer resident I want to add my support to this proposal. I think a bed tax is a wise approach to reduce the boroughs deficit.

I don't believe an additional \$12 is going to reduce the number of tourists visiting Homer

Regards

Chris Jacobson

Sent from my iPhone

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**From:** Andrew Haas <yatra@ak.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 02, 2017 4:44 PM  
**To:** Blankenship, Johni  
**Subject:** Input on Ordinance 2017-17

Hello, I would like to support the bed tax that the Borough is considering.

I am an attorney in Homer and have lived here for 25 years. I have also been on many boards in Homer and am familiar with the city's operating budget.

We need an increase in revenue. The Homer City Council has repeatedly talked about this. About a year ago, we had a long public meeting at which citizens appeared and discussed whether we should cut spending or raise revenue. We also discussed which targets and which sources would be best. The consensus was that a bed tax would be most effective.

Nothing in this town has changed since then. Everyone that I have talked with feels that this bed tax is the best way to proceed.

I urge you to support its passage.

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