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**From:** Maria SantaLucia <majesticviewbb@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 20, 2017 9:59 PM  
**To:** Blankenship, Johni  
**Subject:** Postpone bed tax till March

To whom it may concern,  
As the owner of a bed and breakfast in Homer ,  
I oppose the discussion of new taxes in Homer and the Kenai Peninsula, specifically a bed tax. Let's postpone this discussion [until March 1st](#) after the new Mayor and his team have time to present a balanced budget or communicate any gap they may find in the budget.

Sincerely,  
Maria SantaLucia  
Majestic View B&B  
907. 235-6413

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**From:** Cranes Rest <info@cranesrest.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 21, 2017 7:15 AM  
**To:** Blankenship, Johni  
**Subject:** Bed Tax

Hi

My name is Keith and my wife's name is Melissa we own the cranes rest B&B.  
We oppose the discussion of new taxes in Homer and the Kenai Peninsula, specifically a bed tax. Let's postpone this discussion until March 1st after the new Mayor and his team have time to present a balanced budget or communicate any gap they may find in the budget.

Thank you

Keith and Melissa

39720 Sibson Dr. PO Box 2838

Homer, AK 99603 <http://www.cranesrest.com>

907-226-3276 (Home) 907-756-3438 (Cell)

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**From:** lsrouke@xyz.net  
**Sent:** Monday, November 20, 2017 11:29 PM  
**To:** Blankenship, Johni  
**Subject:** Opposing Bed Tax

Dear Assembly Members ~

I oppose the discussion of new taxes in Homer and the Kenai Peninsula, specifically a bed tax. Let's postpone this discussion until March 1st after the new Mayor and his team have time to present a balanced budget or communicate any gap they may find in the budget.

Linda S. Rourke  
Owner ~ A Home Away From Home in Homer  
Guest Apartment

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**From:** Marcella Suydam <cozycove4us@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 21, 2017 7:16 AM  
**To:** Blankenship, Johni  
**Subject:** taxes

Borough Assembly members,

I oppose the discussion of new taxes in Homer and the Kenai Peninsula, specifically a bed tax. Let's postpone this discussion until March 1st after the new Mayor and his team have time to present a balanced budget.

Thank you,  
Marcella Suydam  
[cozycoveinn.com](http://cozycoveinn.com)  
(907)399-6277

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Marcella Suydam  
[cozycoveinn.com](http://cozycoveinn.com)  
907-399-6277



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**From:** Connie & Lauren Island Watch Vacation Rentals <islandvr@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 21, 2017 7:07 AM  
**To:** Blankenship, Johni  
**Subject:** Bed tax

I oppose the discussion of new taxes in Homer and the Kenai Peninsula, specifically a bed tax. Let's postpone this discussion until March 1st after the new Mayor and his team have time to present a balanced budget or communicate any gap they may find in the budget.

Thank you!

Connie Woolfolk  
Island Watch Vacation Rentals

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**From:** Jerry Scholand <jrryschlnd@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 21, 2017 8:17 AM  
**To:** Blankenship, Johni  
**Subject:** NO NEW TAXES especially a bed tax

To whom it may concern,

We are getting sick and tired of this poorly conceived notion of a "bed tax" being proposed again and again. It is grossly unfair to tax one small segment (lodging) of one industry (tourism). A good example of majority taking advantage of a few hard-working business owners.

It has been defeated and/or withdrawn many times in the past. Drop it...now and forever!

Most frustrated,  
Jerry  
Scholand

58820 East End Road  
Homer, Alaska 99603 USA  
907 299-0858 (Jerry)  
907 299-0659 (Lou)

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**From:** Blankenship, Johni  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 21, 2017 10:16 AM  
**To:** Broyles, Randi  
**Subject:** FW: Borough-wide bed tax

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**From:** [paula@paulasplacebandb.com](mailto:paula@paulasplacebandb.com) [<mailto:paula@paulasplacebandb.com>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 21, 2017 10:00 AM  
**To:** Cooper, Kelly <[kellycooper@kpb.us](mailto:kellycooper@kpb.us)>; Blankenship, Johni <[JBlankenship@kpb.us](mailto:JBlankenship@kpb.us)>  
**Subject:** Borough-wide bed tax

Must we continue year after year fighting this bed tax issue? The newest effort says to put it on the borough-wide ballot, including Seward, but Seward would be exempt from the tax. Where is the logic in this? At the very least, postpone an assembly vote on it until the budget is approved in March.

*Paula  
Paula's Place B&B  
Homer, Alaska*

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**From:** Blankenship, Johni  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 21, 2017 10:16 AM  
**To:** Broyles, Randi  
**Subject:** FW: No bed tax

-----Original Message-----

From: Spyglass inn [<mailto:spyglassinn@gmail.com>]  
Sent: Tuesday, November 21, 2017 10:10 AM  
To: Blankenship, Johni <[JBlankenship@kpb.us](mailto:JBlankenship@kpb.us)>  
Subject: No bed tax

Please postpone discussion of bed tax until new mayor presents his budget, in March.

Sent from my iPad



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**From:** Blankenship, Johni  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 21, 2017 11:23 AM  
**To:** Broyles, Randi  
**Subject:** FW: Bed Tax would be better collected through a Tourism Tax

**From:** [bryanzak@aol.com](mailto:bryanzak@aol.com) [<mailto:bryanzak@aol.com>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 21, 2017 11:22 AM  
**To:** Blankenship, Johni <[JBlankenship@kpb.us](mailto:JBlankenship@kpb.us)>  
**Cc:** Pierce, Charlie <[CPierce@kpb.us](mailto:CPierce@kpb.us)>; Cooper, Kelly <[kellycooper@kpb.us](mailto:kellycooper@kpb.us)>; Quick, John <[JQuick@kpb.us](mailto:JQuick@kpb.us)>  
**Subject:** Bed Tax would be better collected through a Tourism Tax

Please postpone addressing a "bed tax" until March at which time a group will provide information about why a "Tourism Tax" would make more sense.

Thank you,

**Bryan Zak**  
**Cell 907-223-6681**

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**From:** Blankenship, Johni  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 21, 2017 12:58 PM  
**To:** Broyles, Randi  
**Subject:** Fwd: Bed tax singles out one business sector

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Homer Stay And Play <[24paradiseplace@gmail.com](mailto:24paradiseplace@gmail.com)>  
**Date:** November 21, 2017 at 12:21:08 PM AKST  
**To:** <[jblankenship@kpb.us](mailto:jblankenship@kpb.us)>  
**Subject:** **Bed tax singles out one business sector**

Discard email sent earlier there were errors. So embarrassing

Corrected message

Hi

Please note my opposition to implementing a Bed tax. While I understand the need to generate revenue a Bed tax just seems too narrow.

Will it include RV parks, campgrounds, hospitals, doctor's offices? How about Air B&B's, VRBO and hostels? How would they be identified if they don't have a business license?

Would you then single out other business sectors, such as eco tourism, bear viewing, sports fishing or the Arts? How about a plate tax or a mug tax ?

We all pay sales tax and adding on to only one sector is truly unfair.

I can support your effort to review the situation and report out in March.

Sincerely,  
Anna Rodriquez Sansom  
Homer Economic Development Commissioner  
And  
Homer Stay and Play Bed and Breakfast Owner  
[907 399-1475](tel:9073991475)

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**From:** Blankenship, Johni  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 21, 2017 1:17 PM  
**To:** Broyles, Randi  
**Subject:** FW: Postpone bed tax discussion to March

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**From:** [info@juneberrylodge.com](mailto:info@juneberrylodge.com) [<mailto:info@juneberrylodge.com>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 21, 2017 1:11 PM  
**To:** Blankenship, Johni <[JBlankenship@kpb.us](mailto:JBlankenship@kpb.us)>; Pierce, Charlie <[CPierce@kpb.us](mailto:CPierce@kpb.us)>; Quick, John <[JQuick@kpb.us](mailto:JQuick@kpb.us)>  
**Subject:** Postpone bed tax discussion to March

The professional bed and breakfast community of Homer urges the Borough Assembly to hold discussions in March on the proposal for a bed tax. The borough revenue need will be more clear, and all pro and con aspects of the proposal can be thoughtfully considered.

As we have stated before, we question the efficacy and the equitability of a bed tax and recommend the assembly explore very feasible alternatives such as a tourism tax that can be lower and include all businesses that benefit from tourism, not just accommodations. Also, there are many accommodations that are not collecting sales tax at all.

Our members are required to have a state business license, proper insurance and a permit to collect sales tax. What about the many accommodations listed on AirB&B and VRBO and elsewhere that have no business license and are collecting no sales tax? A recent search of Air B&B brought up 161 properties in the Homer area. A test of 18 of these properties revealed that only 6 (1/3) had a state business license, which probably means that they are not collecting sales tax either. With nightly rates up to \$325, this is significant revenue that is not being reported and collected.

We cannot support a borough tax that singles out one business segment and impacts legitimate accommodations businesses while those flying under the radar and collecting no tax continue to operate with impunity. A bed tax will increase the cost of staying in Homer, competing AirB&Bs will raise their rates as well and continue to not pay any tax. These entities are known and are advertising right under our noses.

Please do not fast-track this discussion. It is too important.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia Kuszmaul

President, Homer Bed and Breakfast Association

Owner, Juneberry Lodge

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**From:** Blankenship, Johni  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 21, 2017 2:44 PM  
**To:** Broyles, Randi  
**Subject:** FW: Ordinance for Bed Tax

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**From:** Adrienne Sweeney [<mailto:adriennewalli@hotmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 21, 2017 2:24 PM  
**To:** Blankenship, Johni; Pierce, Charlie; Quick, John; Cooper, Kelly  
**Subject:** Ordinance for Bed Tax

Hello All,

I read recently in the Peninsula Clarion that Assembly member Dale Bagley has submitted an ordinance for discussion at tonight's assembly meeting that would place a question on the October 2018 ballot asking voters whether the borough should institute a 6 percent tax in the borough on temporary lodging and overnight camping with an up to 3 percent exemption for cities that have similar taxes in place.

I am a small business owner and Innkeeper at the Driftwood Inn in Homer, Alaska. While we all know why a bed tax is not a good idea in this economic climate; I would like to instead discuss why it is reasonable to postpone this discussion until March.

Mayor Pierce and his Chief of Staff Mr. Quick have stated that they believe they can balance the budget with no new taxes. I believe they should be given the opportunity to do the work and present it. There is no reason to get the cart before the horse and introduce new taxes before presenting the budget. Especially, because this new tax could have a huge economic impact on small businesses on the lower peninsula. My small business was down 5% this year; I try to keep my staff working year round but it is getting harder and harder to do that. Another down year will significantly reduce jobs during the winter in Homer. We should postpone this discussion until March 1, 2018 to give Mayor Pierce the opportunity to present a balanced budget with no new taxes.

Respectfully,

*Adrienne*

Adrienne Sweeney

Driftwood Inn, Innkeeper  
Seaside Lodges, RV Park and Fishing Charters  
AJ's Oldtown Steakhouse & Tavern  
Homer, Alaska  
[www.thedrftwoodinn.com](http://www.thedrftwoodinn.com)  
907-299-8019

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**From:** Blankenship, Johni  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 21, 2017 3:45 PM  
**To:** Broyles, Randi  
**Subject:** FW: Assembly Mtg 11/21 - Bed Tax Proposal

**From:** Debbie Speakman [<mailto:exdir@homer.alaska.org>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 21, 2017 3:42 PM  
**To:** Blankenship, Johni  
**Subject:** Assembly Mtg 11/21 - Bed Tax Proposal

Good Afternoon Assembly Members

I am writing to ask for your support in our request to delay the vote on the proposed Bed Tax. The Homer Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Center is excited to be working with a new Borough Mayor and his staff and would like them to have an opportunity to review the budget before any tax is voted through for an October ballot.

Thank you for your consideration

Debbie Speakman

Executive Director, Homer Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Center

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*Debbie Speakman*

Executive Director

Homer Chamber of Commerce

201 Sterling Highway

Homer, Alaska 99603

Ph: 907-235-7740