

April 02, 2007

Representative Mark Neuman  
Chair, Economic Development, Trade and Tourism Committee  
State Capitol Room 432  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Chair Neuman and Members of the Committee,

The Alaska State Chamber of Commerce supports and endorses the efforts to clarify the requirements recently adopted under the cruise ship initiative. The vendor disclosure provision of the cruise ship initiative unfairly penalizes those that benefit most directly from the cruise and visitor industries. HB 217 seeks to rectify the vendor disclosure portion of the passed initiative.

The disclosure provision of the initiative requires Alaska businesses that sell day excursions and products to cruise passengers to reveal their confidential pricing structure. As an Alaska business association, we are concerned with this provision. It is patently unfair in that it requires just one segment of the business community to disclose their proprietary pricing information. No other industry is required to disclose its pricing structure. The provision requiring cruise lines to disclose in big type the commission they earn for selling bus tours, flight-seeing tours and other ground tour packages places these shore-side vendors at a serious competitive disadvantage.

Good business in Alaska should be based on an even playing field for all Alaskan businesses. Under the current passed initiative, some businesses maybe unfairly penalized by providing proprietary business information required under the initiative. The Alaska State Chamber of Commerce lauds the efforts to change this provision of the initiative.

We look forward to a better business climate in Alaska, and we believe HB 217 moves Alaska's businesses in the right direction.

Yours in economic prosperity,

Wayne A. Stevens  
President/CEO