

A Resolution of the Haines Borough Assembly supporting the Ocean Ranger Program and opposing legislative actions that would repeal the Ocean Ranger Program.

WHEREAS, the Ocean Ranger Program (AS 46.03.476), established in 2006 through a statewide voter initiative, requires that all large commercial passenger vessels (LCPV) entering the marine waters of the state have an independent observer (Ocean Ranger) on board for the purpose of monitoring compliance with state and federal requirements; and authorizes Ocean Rangers to ensure that passengers, crew, and residents at ports are protected from improper sanitation, health, and safety practices; and

WHEREAS, the Ocean Ranger program is funded through a \$4.00 per berth fee [AS 43.03.480(d)] and is therefore not a cost burden to the State of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the cruise industry is one vital component of Haines' economy, and the Haines Borough must balance its facilitation of the cruise industry with its responsibilities to protect the health and safety of its commercial, subsistence, and sports fisheries, and those of its residents; and

WHEREAS, the Haines Borough fully supports the mission of the Ocean Ranger program; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 74 and Senate Bill 70 propose to repeal the Ocean Ranger Program; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's proposed FY20 budget seeks to eliminate funding from the Ocean Ranger Program;

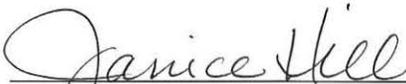
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Haines Borough Assembly fully supports the Ocean Ranger Program, and strongly opposes legislative actions that would repeal the Ocean Ranger Program.

Adopted by a duly-constituted quorum of the Haines Borough Assembly on this 14th day of May, 2019.

Attest:


Alekka Fullerton, Borough Clerk




Janice Hill, Mayor