

A Resolution of the Haines Borough Assembly objecting to the August 1, 2012 Implementation of the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Emission Control Area Rule.

WHEREAS, the EPA's new "Emission Control Area" (ECA) rule was established through the United Nations "International Maritime Organization" (IMO). The United States being signatories to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships "MARPOL" through the IMO establishes the new ECA standards through Annex VI of the MARPOL Convention; and

WHEREAS, the new ECA standards will require 1% fuel sulfur content by August 1, 2012, all along the West Coast (North American ECA) out to 200 miles offshore, and by 2015 require 0.1% fuel sulfur content for same area; and

WHEREAS, the availability of compliant fuel and other technologies that would allow for the goal of reducing emissions of ozone depleting substances, nitrogen oxides (NOx), sulfur oxides(SOx) and tanker cargo emissions(VOCs) is questionable; and

WHEREAS, shipping companies are looking at ways to realistically comply with these new rules through fuel availability, fuel mixing, stack scrubbing, etc.; and

WHEREAS, the Cruise Line Industry is looking at using the "Equivalency Compliance Standard" to reduce its emissions within the ECA boundaries of North America; and

WHEREAS, the Cruise industry is the major component of Haines' and Southeast Alaska's economy for 5 months of the year; and

WHEREAS, the potential effect on the Haines economy due to the industry redeploying vessels because of the costs of doing business within the North American ECA area could be devastating; and

WHEREAS, it appears that the air testing and modeling studies used by EPA to justify the new standards seem in question for this area; and

WHEREAS, the Haines Borough does desire good air quality standards based on sound modeling and testing for its citizens,

NOW THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED that the Haines Borough Assembly requests the EPA delay implementation of the ECA standards until the questions concerning the ECA are resolved, and at the very least allow cruise ships to adopt the "Equivalency Compliance Standard" to mitigate the disastrous effects the August 1 mandate could have on our local economy; and


BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that without an indication that there will be some relief from these standards that will allow the cruise industry to continue its current level of operations in Alaska, the Haines Borough encourages the State of Alaska to pursue whatever means necessary to delay implementation of the EPA's Emission Control Area Rule.

Adopted by a duly-constituted quorum of the Haines Borough Assembly on this 24th day of July, 2012.

Attest:


Julie Cozzi, MMC, Borough Clerk




Stephanie Scott, Mayor