


TRANSMITTAL MEMORANDUM

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TO: The Honorable Mayor and City Council
FROM: Delilah A. Walsh, City Manager Initials: 
DATE: November 2, 2022 File #: MGR22-003
RE: **Resolution No. 22-2869 – A Joint Resolution Of The Assembly Of The Ketchikan Gateway Borough, Council Of The City Of Ketchikan, And Council Of The City Of Saxman, Urging the Federal Government to Reform the Passenger Vessel Services Act; And Establishing An Effective Date**

The attached joint resolution was prepared at the request of Councilmember Abby Bradberry, who requested this item at the September 1, 2022 City Council meeting. Through conversations with Councilmember Bradberry, it was determined that a joint resolution of the City, Ketchikan Gateway Borough, and City of Saxman would be more impactful and appropriate as cruise-related issues effect all of Ketchikan's residents and municipalities. If adopted, Resolution No. 22-2869 urges the federal government to reform the Passenger Vessel Services Act, which currently requires foreign flagged vessels to stop in a foreign port. This issue came into sharp focus during the COVID-19 pandemic and the resumption of cruise in Alaska, which was impeded by the Canadian government's decision to prohibit cruise activity in its waters thereby impacting Alaska's cruise economy. The Ketchikan Gateway Borough Assembly will consider the resolution at its November 21, 2022 meeting.

A motion has been prepared for City Council consideration.

Motion: I move the City Council approve Resolution No. 22-2869 urging the federal government to reform the Passenger Vessel Services Act; and establishing an effective date.

**KETCHIKAN GATEWAY BOROUGH
CITY OF KETCHIKAN
CITY OF SAXMAN**

**BOROUGH RESOLUTION NO. 2973;
CITY OF KETCHIKAN RESOLUTION NO. 22-2869;
CITY OF SAXMAN RESOLUTION NO. 11-2022-07**

A Joint Resolution of the Assembly of the Ketchikan Gateway Borough, Council of the City of Ketchikan, and Council of the City of Saxman, Urging the Federal Government to Reform the Passenger Vessel Services Act

RECITALS

- A. WHEREAS**, since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in early 2020, Ketchikan, along with all other cruise port communities in Alaska, have implemented historic measures to address the pandemic and to ensure a safe and healthy resumption of cruise in late 2021; and
- B. WHEREAS**, as a result of nearly two years without substantial cruise activity, the community of Ketchikan suffered massive social and economic effects leading to business closures, record unemployment, and decreased municipal revenues that are used to provide critical services to residents; and
- C. WHEREAS**, with gratitude to the Alaska congressional delegation, cruise activity was able to safely resume in late 2021 due to the passage of a temporary waiver to the Passenger Vessel Services Act that allowed for all foreign-flagged cruise vessels bound for Alaska to bypass the required stop in Canada, which had prohibited all cruise activity in its waters; and
- D. WHEREAS**, the abbreviated 2021 cruise season provided a much needed boost to Ketchikan's economy and laid a strong foundation for a more robust return to cruise tourism in 2022 and a full recovery; and
- E. WHEREAS**, while the 2022 Alaska cruise season signaled a return to a more predictable and beneficial cruise schedule for Alaskan communities, the events surrounding the 2021 cruise resumption have shed light on the deficiencies and potentially disastrous consequences of maintaining the foreign port call requirements upheld through the Passenger Vessel Services Act; and
- F. WHEREAS**, the community of Ketchikan remains deeply concerned that while seemingly anomalous, emergencies either foreign or abroad have the potential to needlessly hamper Alaska's cruise economy should the Canadian government once again elect to prohibit cruise while the Passenger Vessel Services Act remains in

place; and

- G. WHEREAS**, recognizing that while Alaska's cruise economy is a global economy, Alaska's economic prosperity should not be so bound to the policies and actions of a foreign government when it is domestic law that would make such foreign action irrelevant and innocuous, and
- H. WHEREAS**, the community of Ketchikan urges its state legislators and all members of Congress to reform the outdated and no longer applicable aspects of the Passenger Vessel Services Act pertaining to cruise tourism in U.S. waters to ensure that Alaska's residents and livelihoods are not once again dictated by foreign policy.

NOW, THEREFORE, IN CONSIDERATION OF THE ABOVE FACTS, IT IS RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KETCHIKAN GATEWAY BOROUGH, COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KETCHIKAN, AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAXMAN as follows:

Section 1. The Ketchikan Gateway Borough, City of Ketchikan, and City of Saxman, and Ketchikan Gateway Borough School Board, urge the Federal Government to reform the Passenger Vessel Services Act.

Section 2. The Ketchikan City Clerk shall transmit a copy of this resolution to Alaska Congresswoman Mary Peltola, Alaska Senator Lisa Murkowski, Alaska Senator Dan Sullivan, and Alaska Governor Mike Dunleavy.

Section 3. Effective Date. This resolution shall be effective upon adoption by the Ketchikan Gateway Borough Assembly, Ketchikan City Council, and Saxman City Council.

ADOPTED by the Borough Assembly this ___ day of November, 2022.

ADOPTED by the Ketchikan City Council this ____ day of November, 2022.

ADOPTED by the Saxman City Council this ___ day of November 2022.

Ketchikan Gateway Borough Signatures:

Rodney Dial, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:

Kacie Paxton, Borough Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Glenn Brown, Borough Attorney

City of Ketchikan Signatures:

Dave Kiffer, City Mayor

ATTEST:

Kim Stanker, City Clerk

City of Saxman Signatures:

Frank Seludo, City Mayor

ATTEST:

Lori Richmond, City Clerk