

MUNICIPALITY OF SKAGWAY, ALASKA RESOLUTION NO. 12-14R

A RESOLUTION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF SKAGWAY 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 Skagway's and much of Southeast Alaska's economy annually; and

WHEREAS, the potential effect on the Skagway 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 inadequate for this area; and

WHEREAS, the Municipality of Skagway does desire good air quality standards based on sound modeling and testing for its citizens;

NOW THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED that the Municipality of Skagway requests that 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

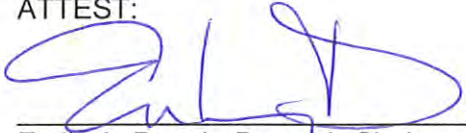
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that since we have not had an indication that there will be some relief from these standards that will allow the cruise industry to continue its current level of operations in Alaska, the Municipality of Skagway supports the State of Alaska's efforts to seek relief by legal means from the enforcement of the ECA in the waters off the coast of Alaska.

PASSED AND APPROVED by a duly constituted quorum of the Borough Assembly of the Municipality of Skagway this 19th day of July, 2012.



Stan Selmer, Mayor

ATTEST:



Emily A. Deach, Borough Clerk

(SEAL)

