

Agenda Item:	<u>M.3</u>
Committee:	<u>Policies and Procedures</u>
Page Number:	<u>68</u>

**ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENTS**  
**ORDINANCE 2014-25**

1. Mike Barth, President of Homer Chamber of Commerce ..... Homer
2. Marv St. Clair .....
3. Don Cotogno.....
4. Informal Petition Signatures .....
5. Gretchen Kenney .....
6. Kari Olson .....
7. Catkin Burton.....
8. Cindy Clock .....
9. Oscar and Forrest Nelson..... Soldotna
10. 20 Citizen Letters submitted by Kenai Peninsula Tourism Marketing Council
11. Bruce Bustamante, AHP Alaska/Yukon Princess Tours ..... Anchorage
12. Michael Warburton..... Homer
13. Peter Zuyus..... Homer
14. Bob Standish.....Kenai



*Our Mission: To support our membership through cooperative economic development and community service.*

Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly Members,

The Homer Chamber of Commerce board of directors, on behalf of more than 500 members, would like to express its opposition to Ordinance 2014-25, which would Establish an Areawide Transient Accommodations Tax (Bed Tax).

The Homer Chamber hosted a forum on Thursday June 26, 2014. The purpose of the forum was to provide an opportunity to educate ourselves, our members, and the public regarding this Bed Tax ordinance. Those in attendance were offered an opportunity to comment on this proposed ordinance. During the comment segment, that was about one hour, individuals representing multiple industries spoke. 100% of the testimony was opposed to this ordinance.

Due to the fact that this ordinance targets the Lodging industry, Lodging owners and guests will disproportionately be burdened with an additional tax.

The Lodging industry is not subject to the current sales tax cap. This means that 100% of sales generated by the lodging industry are taxed at the current sales tax rate.

It is very likely that Lodging owners contribute higher than average property taxes due the increased value of these types of properties.

Another fact that is of significant concern is that the funds collected from this tax can be reallocated at any time. There is no guarantee that these funds will be used to promote tourism and there is no guarantee that these funds would return to the cities in which they were generated.

The Homer Chamber of Commerce is dedicated to keeping the Kenai Peninsula a highly competitive destination in Alaska. We understand the importance of marketing our community in Alaska, other U.S. states and the World. However, the Bed Tax proposed in Ordinance 2014-25, is not the method to achieve these goals.

Respectfully,

Mike Barth, President  
Homer Chamber of Commerce

## Blankenship, Johni

---

**From:** Aranguiz, Michele  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 01, 2014 4:26 PM  
**To:** Blankenship, Johni  
**Subject:** FW: Bed Tax Considerations

**From:** Manny Bozeman [<mailto:msspmedic70@yahoo.com>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 01, 2014 2:46 PM  
**To:** Aranguiz, Michele  
**Subject:** Bed Tax Considerations

Dear Esteemed Mayor and Borough Assembly Members,

As I'm sure you all realize all daily accommodation rental businesses are currently mandated to collect city and borough taxes on a daily bases. I believe the daily rental businesses are the only business entity that is required to do so. Possibly daily vehicle rentals are include but I am unsure.

What I'd like to bring to your attention is when the discussion of the ordinance that mandated the daily collection of tax was debated one of the major reasons for the additional tax collection was financial support to the organizations that were promoting tourism in our Borough. Many of you might remember this particular ordinance as the Sharon Mook ordinance as I believe she is the one that first introduced the idea to the borough.

My point here is now you are considering an additional 'bed tax based at 4%' and I'm hearing the same reasons for this possible bed tax as were voiced years ago when the tax on a daily rate ordinance was passed.

Sales tax is the major income generator for both the cities and the borough both year round and with the additional influx in the summer months. Please continue to help us sell our tourist market here on the Kenai by NOT supporting an additional tax burden to the ones that already are taxed for their sleeping arrangements.

Sincerely,  
Marv St Clair



John Faulkner <landsendjdf@gmail.com>

---

## Bed Tax Opposition

1 message

---

**Don Cotogno** <dcotogno@timber-bay.com>  
Reply-To: dcotogno@timber-bay.com  
To: John Faulkner <landsendjdf@gmail.com>  
Cc: Mike Dye <leceo@alaska.net>

Mon, Jun 30, 2014 at 8:27 PM

Jon,

I have talked with the Board for the Homer Bed and Breakfast Association as well as canvassed various members. I think it is safe to say that we as a group is categorically oppose the proposed Bed Tax. I will write a letter to this affect, but wanted to let you know before tomorrow night.

Thanx,

Don

*Don Cotogno*

Timber Bay Bed and Breakfast

[www.timber-bay.com](http://www.timber-bay.com)

Treasurer - Homer Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Center

Treasurer - Bed and Breakfast Association of Alaska

Treasurer - Homer Bed and Breakfast Association

President - Greater Kachemak Bay Alliance

No! I oppose Kenai Peninsula Bed Tax! A Bed Tax will not be good for the economy. KPTMC (Kenai Peninsula Tourism Marketing Council) will become less accountable to its community and members. And the millions of dollars in Bed Tax collected annually will mean a LOT LESS revenue to the small businesses dependent on tourism dollars.

• Signature: Mary Hueper Name: MARILYN HUEPER, HOMER INN & SPA

Comment: BED TAX will discourage AK <sup>lodging</sup> travelers, and decrease \$ for spa. \* 100% guarantee about it will go to tourism marketing business.

• Signature: Danna Bondoli Name: DANNA BONDOLI

Comment: @ restructured bed tax with dedicated funds for marketing - 10% <sup>would be go hotel</sup>

• Signature: Lou Detwiler Name: Lou Detwiler

Comment: Why lodging carries the burden

• Signature: Dax Radtke Name: DAX RADTKE

Comment: the \$300k for marketing is fine. Erase the rest.

• Signature: James Faulkner Name: James Faulkner

Comment: The tax will hurt the visitor industry.

• Signature: Thomas M Taffe Name: THOMAS M TAFFE

Comment: MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT HAS NO ADVERTISING TALENT

• Signature: Gus VanDyke Name: GUS VANDYKE

Comment: against any program designed to grow government

• Signature: Gary Lyon Name: GARY LYON

Comment: OPPOSED TO CONCEPT AND THE BIG RUSH, LACK OF INFORMATION

• Signature: Karin J Marks Name: KARIN J MARKS

Comment: \_\_\_\_\_

• Signature: Shelly Erickson Name: SHELLEY ERICKSON

Comment: opposed ~~to~~ we should be on ATIA - this is a burden for one segment & should not be the fill in for the governments shortfalls!

• Signature: Josh Garvey Name: JOSH GARVEY

Comment: opposed - will adversely affect our entire economy

No! I oppose Kenai Peninsula Bed Tax! A Bed Tax will not be good for the economy. KPTMC (Kenai Peninsula Tourism Marketing Council) will become less accountable to its community and members. And the millions of dollars in Bed Tax collected annually will mean a LOT LESS revenue to the small businesses dependent on tourism dollars.

- Signature: Michael Dye Name: Michael Dye  
Comment: This will make our product less competitive, tour groups, should see
- Signature: Paul Huffer Name: PAUL HUFFER  
Comment: The bed tax is going to hurt ALL Homeis small businesses!
- Signature: Sharon A. Cotogno Name: Sharon A. Cotogno  
Comment: The bed tax hurts - and it hurts Alaskans most.
- Signature: Michael J Warburton Name: Michael J Warburton  
Comment: Targets small group which pays highest property tax
- Signature: Cyde T. Burton Name: Cyde T. Burton  
Comment: Poor concept; riddled with mislead info  
Attack on a small portion of voters, taxing to support general needs by small part of pop.
- Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Comment: How DO THE VISITOR INDUSTRY WANT TO PAY FOR INCREASING GOV. \$ FOR THEIR INDUSTRY
- Signature: John Fenske Name: JOHN FENSKE  
Comment: \_\_\_\_\_
- Signature: Ann Newland Name: Ann Newland  
Comment: totally unjust to just target one group!
- Signature: Donald F. Cotogno Name: DONALD F. COTOGNO  
Comment: \_\_\_\_\_
- Signature: Adrenne Siley Name: Adrenne Siley  
Comment: opposed
- Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Comment: \_\_\_\_\_



June 20, 2014

Subject: Proposed Kenai 4% Bed Tax

Dear Members,

The Alaska Hotel and Lodging Association (AKHLA) is the leading voice and resource for Alaska's lodging industry, providing jobs to over 13,000 Alaskans.

We want to ensure a healthy business climate for our members. In order to do this, we will not support a targeted tax in reference to the current Kenai Peninsula Tourism Marketing Council bed tax initiative.

- Ordinance 2014-25 proposes a targeted industry tax, which negatively impacts Kenai Peninsula hoteliers.
- In addition to paying property taxes and sales taxes for Borough services, Ordinance 2014-25 proposes to burden Kenai Peninsula hoteliers with a 4% bed tax.
- Singling out the hotel and lodging industry to provide revenues to support the Borough's general fund spending is the wrong way to promote the Kenai Peninsula.

We urge you to write the Kenai Borough Assembly to share your opposition to this proposed tax.

Sincerely,

Gretchen Kenney, Executive Director  
Alaska Hotel and Lodging Association

Enclosures

**Lea Miller**

Jun 17 (6  
days ago)

to me:

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Kari Olson <[karianne.olson@gmail.com](mailto:karianne.olson@gmail.com)>

**Date:** June 17, 2014 at 5:28:00 PM AKDT

**To:** Lea Miller <[gm@endofthespit.com](mailto:gm@endofthespit.com)>

**Subject:** Potential Tax Increase

Dear Lea,

Thank you for notifying us of the possible tax increase.

As we discussed, this increase would definitely pose a burden to our production.

Because of the high volume of the rooms we rent, the higher rate would inevitably have to be factored into any decision regarding affordability, amount of rooms, and the length of any potential future rentals.

Best Regards,

Kari

Kari Olson  
Line Producer  
Alaska: The Last Frontier  
Wilma TV, Inc

PLEASE NOTE NEW OFFICE NUMBER BELOW

323.308.2527 office

323.308-0853 mobile



**Catkin Burton**

2:19 AM (13  
hours ago)

to Fam, me

To Whom It May Concern,

For the record we are opposed to  
to a bed tax. Higher occupancy cost Will hurt tourism.

Catkin Kilcher Burton and Tom Burton  
Co-Owners Eagle Enterprises

Catkin Kilcher Burton

*Cindy Cleck*  
*02014-25*

- Representing the Seward business community
  - Legislative Advocacy
  - Regional Boards
  - Maintaining visitor center
  - Growing membership services
  - Attracting media coverage
  
- Meetings with Seattle Partners
  - Marine Transportation
  - Cruise Industry
- Strategic Economic Development Plan
- Fish Enhancement Programs
- Industry Shows
  - Pacific Marine Expo
- Partnerships
  - Alaska State Chamber
  - Kenai Peninsula Tourism Marketing Council
  - Alaska Travel Industry Association
- Scholarship Program
- Legislative Advocacy
  - Track Critical Issues
  - Inform Members & Encourage Testimony
- Testimony at Local, State, and Federal levels
- Meet the Candidates Forum
- Small Business Support
- [www.sewardbusinessvoice.com](http://www.sewardbusinessvoice.com)
- Military Appreciation
- Halibut Tournament
- July 4th Festival
- Mount Marathon Race
- Silver Salmon Derby

#### Sports and Rec Shows

- Anchorage
- Fairbanks
- Mat-Su

**Seward.com**  
Alaska Starts Here.®

## Blankenship, Johni

---

**From:** Forrest Nelson <fnelson@gci.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 02, 2014 11:17 AM  
**To:** Wolf, Kelly; Smalley, Hal; Ogle, Wayne; Bagley, Dale; Pierce, Charlie; McClure, Sue; Johnson, Brent; Smith, Bill; Haggerty, Mako; Blankenship, Johni  
**Subject:** Preposed Bed Tax

Dear Borough Assembly Representatives, We have a small B and B in Soldotna and get repeat customers and new ones partly because we have very modest rates. In the 11 years we have been in business we have never increased our rates. If this tax passes, you will require us to either take less profit from our rates or tax further a very sensitive ( and fickle I must add) industry. With the draw of the great King Salmon declining ( actually almost gone altogether) we don't need to give them yet another reason to go elsewhere. If I were a tourist I would be offended to find that a community that needs and encourages our spending is putting the burden on us to bail them out in areas that don't even pertain to them. Please hear all the input and vote wisely as you did a few years back. It is only right if we need more money in our communities it should come from us not those outsiders who are already an asset to us, you know they don't have to come, and I have learned in having this business they are very fickle, if they feel they are being solely targeted, they WILL go elsewhere. Can we afford that?

Very Sincerely, A River's Edge B and B  
Oscar and Forrest Nelson

## Turner, Michele

---

**Subject:** FW: 20 letters of support from 2014-Alaska visitors, lodge owners and fishing guides  
**Attachments:** 20 Visitor-Fishermen-LodgeOwner Letters.pdf; ATT11190451.htm; image001.gif; ATT11190452.htm; image002.gif; ATT11190453.htm; image003.gif; ATT11190454.htm; image004.gif; ATT11190455.htm

**From:** "Jhasmine Lamb" <jhasmine@kenaipeninsula.org>  
**To:** "mnavarre@borough.kenai.ak.us" <mnavarre@borough.kenai.ak.us>, "cpierce@borough.kenai.ak.us" <cpierce@borough.kenai.ak.us>, "smcclure@borough.kenai.ak.us" <smcclure@borough.kenai.ak.us>, "bjohnson@borough.kenai.ak.us" <bjohnson@borough.kenai.ak.us>, "billsmith@borough.kenai.ak.us" <billsmith@borough.kenai.ak.us>, "mhaggerty@borough.kenai.ak.us" <mhaggerty@borough.kenai.ak.us>, "kwolf@borough.kenai.ak.us" <kwolf@borough.kenai.ak.us>, "hsmalley@borough.kenai.ak.us" <hsmalley@borough.kenai.ak.us>, "wogle@borough.kenai.ak.us" <wogle@borough.kenai.ak.us>, "dbagley@borough.kenai.ak.us" <dbagley@borough.kenai.ak.us>, "assemblyclerk@borough.kenai.ak.us" <assemblyclerk@borough.kenai.ak.us>  
**Cc:** "Shanon Hamrick" <shanon@kenaipeninsula.org>  
**Subject:** 20 letters of support from 2014-Alaska visitors, lodge owners and fishing guides

Good morning Kenai Peninsula Borough Council Members and Mayor Navarre,

Thank you for your attention to this correspondence.

Attached to this email you will find 20 letters of support from 2014-Alaska visitors, lodge owners and fishing guides, who support ORDINANCE 2014-25 and would like to see this initiative brought to a public vote.

Kind regards,

Jhasmine Lamb

907.262.5229

Kenai Peninsula Tourism Marketing Council

35571 Kenai Spur Highway | Soldotna, AK 99669

<<https://www.facebook.com/thekenai>>

<<https://plus.google.com/106619919046967894180/posts>>

<<http://www.kenaipeninsula.org/>> <<https://goo.gl/maps/qbT7F>>

7/7/14  
~~6/29/2014~~

Mayor Navarre and members of the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly, I would like to bring to your attention the reasons why I support the implementation of a bed tax and that I request you support Ordinance 2014-25.


Our borough is different in the way it currently addresses and provides for tourism incentives to bring guests to our area compared to other municipalities and boroughs within the state of Alaska. While others have tourism and it's marketing a major function of their government structure and support such to a rather high degree, ours is a non-department and it's employees do not receive similar benefits to regular borough employees. However, their responsibilities to attract both in and out of state as well as international visitors to our wonderful area by exposing them to what we have to offer is a daunting task. Yet they do it with far less resources and many more challenges. While they receive approximately 50% of the budget needs from the borough they also have the daunting task of raising the other 50% and the total of about \$600,000 is significantly less than that spent by all of tourism entities.

One should ask, "is tourism important to this borough", do we want visitors to come here and partake in what we have to offer? I do know that the borough benefits greatly from our visitors as they spend money in various stores, shops and businesses as well as the taxes generated from such sales.

The amount of money currently being spent by this borough in support of tourism through it's current vendor, the Kenai Peninsula Tourism and Marketing Council is significantly less than all other boroughs and yet our return for each dollar spent is far greater than that of the others.

A bed tax would take your tourism vendor out of the business of trying to raise money to support their existence and allow them to do the job they do best, sell us, our communities and our resources. For these reasons along with many others I encourage you to support the current bed tax proposal before you and support Ordinance 2014-25.

Thank you for your time and attention to this most serious matter.



DARIN Koloski  
SOLDOTNA AK  
(907)589-7724

Borough Assembly Members,

I am a visitor to the Kenai Peninsula as a nonresident. I recently became aware of Ordinance 2014-25 and am in full support. The money put forth with a small tax is worth promoting tourism in the Kenai Peninsula. Researching our current trip took a lot of time and effort. One of the great resources we found was the Kenai Peninsula Tourism and Marketing Council. If additional funding made their resources more readily available, I believe it would benefit the Kenai Peninsula and the thousands of people who visit this area every summer.

Sincerely,

Anthony GruszKiewicz  
495 STANTON Rd.  
Factoryville PA, 18419

Borough Assembly Members,

I am a visitor to the Kenai Peninsula as a nonresident. I recently became aware of Ordinance 2014-25 and am in full support. The money put forth with a small tax is worth promoting tourism in the Kenai Peninsula. Researching our current trip took a lot of time and effort. One of the great resources we found was the Kenai Peninsula Tourism and Marketing Council. In addition, funding made their resources more readily available. I believe it would benefit the Kenai Peninsula and the thousands of people who visit this area every summer.

Sincerely,

DAVID B LA PORTE  
~~DAVID B LA PORTE~~  
22 Huron Ave  
Mashpee ma 02649



Borough Assembly Members,

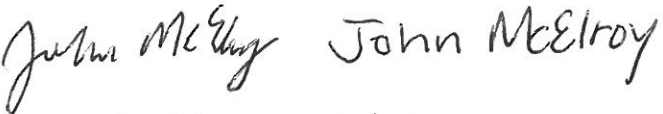
I am a visitor to the Kenai Peninsula as a nonresident. I recently became aware of Ordinance 2014-25 and am in full support. The money put forth with a small tax is worth promoting tourism in the Kenai Peninsula. Researching our current trip took a lot of time and effort. One of the great resources we found was the Kenai Peninsula Tourism and Marketing Council. If additional funding made their resources more readily available I believe it would benefit the Kenai Peninsula and the thousands of people who visit this area every summer.

Sincerely,

*David Goyette*  
*16 Electric St*  
*Worl Ma 01610*

Borough Assembly Members,

I am a visitor to the Kenai Peninsula as a nonresident. I recently became aware of Ordinance 2014-25 and am in full support. The money put forth with a small tax is worth promoting tourism in the Kenai Peninsula. Researching our current trip took a lot of time and effort. One of the great resources we found was the Kenai Peninsula Tourism and Marketing Council. If additional funding made their resources more readily available I believe it would benefit the Kenai Peninsula and the thousands of people who visit this area every summer.

Sincerely,  John McElroy  
6 COACHMANS LN.  
Sagamore BEACH, MA 02562

Borough Assembly Members,

I am writing this letter to show my support of ordinance 2014-25, the <sup>bed</sup> ~~bad~~ tax. As a 20+ year fishing guide in the Kenai Peninsula a bed tax on lodging residents would benefit my guiding service and the surrounding tourism industry.

Non Alaska residents account for the majority of my business and the surrounding communities. Advertising is the best way to increase tourism, and if we can increase our exposure to surrounding cities, counties, states, and nations then our business in return will be more successful. Neighboring boroughs spend millions of dollars every year on advertising, while the Kenai Peninsula spends close to only half a million dollars. By increasing our area's advertising, tourist growth would increase immensely and help everyone in the Kenai Peninsula area.

Help the fishing guides, the lodge owners, the small businesses, and everyone in the Kenai Peninsula area and pass the 2014-25 ordinance. Thank you for your consideration and please keep us in mind.

Sincerely,

Jo Reid

I have lived in Alaska 25 years and I have seen tourist frequent Alaska every year.

I am in support of this Tax as it would greatly benefit Alaska and this is a very common Tax in other states with frequent tourists.

Jo Reid  
Jo Reid

Borough Assembly Members,

I am writing this letter to show my support of ordinance 2014-25, the bad tax. As a 20+ year fishing guide in the Kenai Peninsula a bed tax on lodging residents would benefit my guiding service and the surrounding tourism industry.

Non Alaska residents account for the majority of my business and the surrounding communities. Advertising is the best way to increase tourism, and if we can increase our exposure to surrounding cities, counties, states, and nations then our business in return will be more successful. Neighboring boroughs spend millions of dollars every year on advertising, while the Kenai Peninsula spends close to only half a million dollars. By increasing our area's advertising, tourist growth would increase immensely and help everyone in the Kenai Peninsula area.

Help the fishing guides, the lodge owners, the small businesses, and everyone in the Kenai Peninsula area and pass the 2014-25 ordinance. Thank you for your consideration and please keep us in mind.

Sincerely,



Ryan Tompkins  
12 years Kenai Guide

My wife and three children come up every summer. My wife is also employed locally. Our family depends on tourism and fishing for our living.

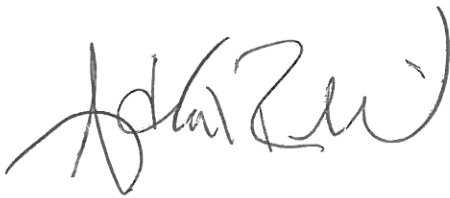
Borough Assembly Members,

I am writing this letter to show my support of ordinance 2014-25, the bad tax. As a 20+ year fishing guide in the Kenai Peninsula a bed tax on lodging residents would benefit my guiding service and the surrounding tourism industry.

Non Alaska residents account for the majority of my business and the surrounding communities. Advertising is the best way to increase tourism, and if we can increase our exposure to surrounding cities, counties, states, and nations then our business in return will be more successful. Neighboring boroughs spend millions of dollars every year on advertising, ~~with the Kenai Peninsula spending less than a million dollars.~~ By increasing our area's advertising, tourist growth would increase immensely and help everyone in the Kenai Peninsula area.

Help the fishing guides, the lodge owners, the small businesses, and everyone in the Kenai Peninsula area and pass the 2014-25 ordinance. Thank you for your consideration and please keep us in mind.

Sincerely,



ADAM T. REID

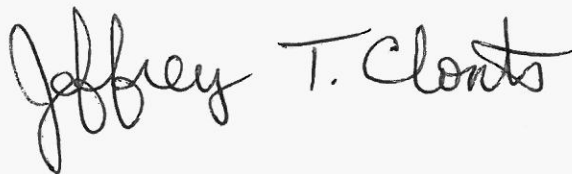
Big Reid Guide Service  
15 yr business

38050 Greenland St. Sterling, AK

Dear Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly Members,

I am a small business owner on the Kenai Peninsula writing to bring forth support for the Ordinance 2014-25. It is undeniable that most of the economic stimulus is brought forth by seasonal tourism activities. My business has the majority of its success through a third quarter influx of tourists and the economic stimuli that follows. The benefit of Ordinance 2014-25 is comparable to that of surrounding boroughs here in the state of Alaska. Various other boroughs direct millions of dollars for marketing and expansion of their tourism awareness. The Kenai Peninsula Tourism and Marketing Council spends most of its time trying to raise money to match the boroughs contribution instead of actively pursuing ways to market the goods and services of the amazing communities here on the Peninsula. I fully believe that my business and the community as a whole will be blessed with increased tourism if the Ordinance 2014-25 brings a larger amount of money for the Tourism Council, allowing an increase focus on bringing repeat and new Alaskan tourists. I urge you to pass the Ordinance in order to bring forward an improved marketing scheme and ultimately increase the amount of people and economic stimuli to my business, and the Peninsula alike.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey T. Clonts

P.O Box 201

Sterling AK, 99672

Borough Assembly Members,

I am a visitor to the Kenai Peninsula as a nonresident. I recently became aware of Ordinance 2014-25 and am in full support. The money put forth with a small tax is worth promoting tourism in the Kenai Peninsula. Researching our current trip took a lot of time and effort. One of the great resources we found was the Kenai Peninsula Tourism and Marketing Council. If additional funding made their resources more readily available I believe it would benefit the Kenai Peninsula and the thousands of people who visit this area every summer.

Sincerely,

FAUZIAH MOND Yusop  
13410 LOST CREEK RD  
TOMBALL - 77375  
TX

Borough Assembly Members,

I am a visitor to the Kenai Peninsula as a nonresident. I recently became aware of Ordinance 2014-25 and am in full support. The money put forth with a small tax is worth promoting tourism in the Kenai Peninsula. Researching our current trip took a lot of time and effort. One of the great resources we found was the Kenai Peninsula Tourism and Marketing Council. If additional funding made their resources more readily available I believe it would benefit the Kenai Peninsula as well as the thousands of people who visit this area every summer.

Sincerely,

Michael W. Ryan  
Michael W. Ryan } FLAGSTAFF, AZ  
86001

Kim R Watkins } FLAGSTAFF, AZ 86001  
~~Kim R Watkins~~

WADE CARL JR } FLAGSTAFF, AZ 86001  
Wade Carl Jr

Michael C. Curry } TALENT OR, 97540  
Michael C. Curry

MARY K. CARL, FLAGSTAFF, AZ  
Stephanie Diane Carl Flagstaff AZ  
St. D. C.



Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly Members,

As a long time visitor to Alaska I am in support of ordinance 2014-25. In the lower 48, I hardly ever see or hear about tourist attractions in the Kenai Peninsula area. I have been coming up to Alaska for many years and would like to see my friends and business members in the Kenai Peninsula succeed. By allocating funds to advertising, tourism increases and the area grows economically. In comparison to other Boroughs in Alaska, the Kenai Peninsula hardly receives any funds for an area that is a great tourist destination. Please help our community here in the

~~Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly Members,~~

~~As a long time visitor to Alaska I am in support of ordinance 2014-25.~~

~~In the lower 48, I hardly ever see or hear about tourist attractions in the Kenai Peninsula area.~~

~~I have been coming up to Alaska for many years and would like to see my friends and business members in the Kenai Peninsula succeed.~~

~~By allocating funds to advertising, tourism increases and the area grows economically.~~

Borough Assembly Members,

I am a visitor to the Kenai Peninsula as a nonresident. I recently became aware of Ordinance 2014-25 and am in full support. The money put forth with a small tax is worth promoting tourism in the Kenai Peninsula. Researching our current trip took a lot of time and effort. One of the great resources we found was the Kenai Peninsula Tourism and Marketing Council. If additional funding made their resources more readily available, I believe it would benefit the Kenai Peninsula and the thousands of people who visit this area every summer.

Sincerely,


A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brent K. Miller". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

PEARL CITY, HI 96782

Borough Assembly Members,

I am a visitor to the Kenai Peninsula as a nonresident. I recently became aware of Ordinance 2014-25 and am in full support. The money put forth with a small tax is worth promoting tourism in the Kenai Peninsula. Researching our current trip took a lot of time and effort. One of the great resources we found was the Kenai Peninsula Tourism and Marketing Council. If additional funding made their resources more readily available I believe it would benefit the Kenai Peninsula and the thousands of people who visit this area every summer.

Sincerely,

  
AIEA, HAWAII

Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly Members,

As a long time visitor to Alaska I am in support of ordinance 2014-25. In the lower 48, I  
hardly ever see

Borough Assembly Members,

I am a visitor to the Kenai Peninsula as a nonresident. I recently became aware of Ordinance 2014-25 and am in full support. The money put forth with a small tax is worth promoting tourism in the Kenai Peninsula. Researching our current trip took a lot of time and effort. One of the great resources we found was the Kenai Peninsula Tourism and Marketing Council. If additional funding made their resources more readily available I believe it would benefit the Kenai Peninsula and the thousands of people who visit this area every summer.

  
Sincerely,

Willie McNeal  
500 E Columbia  
Pontiac, Mi 48340

Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly Members,

As a long time visitor to Alaska I am in support of ordinance 2014-25. In the lower 48, I hardly ever see or hear about tourist attractions in the Kenai Peninsula area. I have been coming up to Alaska for many years and would like to see my friends and business members in the Kenai Peninsula succeed. By allocating funds to advertising, tourism increases and the area grows economically. In comparison to other Boroughs in Alaska, the Kenai Peninsula hardly receives any funds for an area that is a great tourist destination. Please help our community here in the Kenai Peninsula and pass the 2014-25 ordinance.

Thank you for your consideration,

*Billy Kern Thompson*


Billy Kern Thompson  
311 CREEKVIEW CIR.  
CRANDALL, TX. 75714

Dear Borough Members,

I have a seasonal job here on the Peninsula and find my job completely tourism dependent. There is no other way that I would be able to make and spend money if the customers that I serve were not present. I stumbled upon the Ordinance 2014-25 and realized the necessity immediately. The increased money brought forth for marketing would allow a better influx of tourists through the Peninsula allowing every community to benefit. My job will see increased customers and my income will likely improve with tips and a possible raise. I would greatly encourage the borough to pass Ordinance 2014-25 in order to allocate more money toward marketing and bringing increased seasonal tourism.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

  
Gary L. Cordova

7-11-14

Borough Assembly Members,

I am a visitor to the Kenai Peninsula as a nonresident. I recently became aware of Ordinance 2014-25 and am in full support. The money put forth with a small tax is worth promoting tourism in the Kenai Peninsula. Researching our current trip took a lot of time and effort. One of the great resources we found was the Kenai Peninsula Tourism and Marketing Council. If additional funding made their resources more readily available I believe it would benefit the Kenai Peninsula and the thousands of people who visit this area every summer.

Sincerely,

*Edward Cordova*

7/11/14

EDWARD CORDOVA



7/11/14

Mayor and Borough Assembly Members,

As an active business owner in the Kenai Peninsula I would like to encourage you to support in favor of ordinance 2014-25. My family has operated in the lodging and fishing industry for years. The importance of good marketing is vital to the success of our business, and therefore the welfare of our families. Our business relies entirely on seasonal tourist activities. It is with this point that I support Ordinance 2014-25. With the implementation of the Ordinance 2014-25 I would expect increased exposure to the tourism industry of the Kenai Peninsula. The marginal benefits of increased advertising and exposure outweigh the marginal cost of a small tax. Please support Ordinance 2014-25.

Sincerely,

*Bill White*  
Bill White  
Greatland St.  
Sterling



July 15, 2014

Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly  
144 North Binkley,  
Soldotna, AK 99669

Dear Assembly Members:

On the subject of a bed tax to support tourism marketing for the Kenai Peninsula Borough, I am stating our objection on behalf of the Kenai Princess Lodge located in Cooper Landing. Our objection is based on a number of issues surrounding the development of the proposal and ordinance to use the money.

The Kenai Princess Lodge relies solely on the marketing promotion of the Princess Cruise/Tour product, which includes visitation to Denali National Park and the Mat-Su region, and receives no benefit from Kenai Peninsula Tourism Marketing Council (KPTMC) marketing efforts. The lodge operates during a short summer tourist season and making a profit is difficult. The Kenai Princess is located in an unincorporated area of the borough so as the ordinance is proposed now, all bed tax would go to KPTMC.

We along with other tourism businesses object to targeted taxes on tourists. This proposed bed tax is intended to fund KPTMC marketing for the entire Peninsula and would benefit a wide range of businesses. However, the tax is *solely* on overnight accommodations. We would advocate a more fair approach and encourage you to consider a broad based funding source that would include all primary and secondary beneficiaries of a healthy tourism industry.

And last is our objection to not being asked or engaged in the discussion of sustainable funding and a proposed bed tax. We along with other lodges and hoteliers on the Peninsula feel ambushed with this approach and are very disappointed with KPTMC. Bed tax increases should never come as a surprise or be opposed by the companies that collect the tax.

In conclusion I recommend the following: the bed tax proposal should not be put on the October ballot, and KPTMC should begin a more inclusive round of discussions on a broad based sustainable funding source INCLUDING the hoteliers and lodge operators. The proposal as it is written now is not ready for a public vote and will only create division with businesses in your borough.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bruce Bustamante".

Bruce Bustamante  
HAP Alaska/Yukon, Princess Cruises  
VP, Community and Public Affairs

**Turner, Michele**

---

**From:** Michael Warburton <mjwarburton77@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, July 18, 2014 3:27 PM  
**To:** Turner, Michele  
**Subject:** Docs for Assembly meeting  
**Attachments:** Bed tax faults.pdf; tourism1212.pdf

Hi Michele,

Attached are 2 documents for the Tues. assembly meeting.

I also would like to request to speak at the meeting.

Thank you,

Michael Warburton  
Owner Ocean Shores Motel  
3500 Crittenden Dr  
Homer, AK 99603

299-1400

December 2012

This Tax Facts is designed to explain how Tourism tax applies. If this Tax Facts does not answer your specific question, please call the department's toll-free Helpline at 1-800-TAX-9188 between 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM CST, Monday through Friday.

Information found in this document rescinds and replaces all previous written information on this subject. All readers and users of this publication are responsible for keeping informed about changes in tax laws and regulations by reading the Department of Revenue newsletters, press releases, Tax Facts, and other documents published by the department.

## Tourism Tax

The tourism or seasonal tax is an additional tax on certain lodging and amusement services that is imposed for tourism promotion. The tourism tax rate is 1.5%. Tourism tax applies to the gross receipts of:

- Hotels and Lodging Establishments
- Campgrounds
- Motor Vehicle Rentals
- Recreational Equipment Rentals
- Recreational Services
- Spectator Events
- Visitor Attractions
- Visitor-Intensive Businesses

The tourism tax on lodging establishments, campgrounds, motor vehicle rentals, recreational equipment rentals, recreational services, spectator events and visitor attractions applies year-round. The tourism tax on visitor-intensive businesses applies during the months of June, July, August, and September.

If a business or transaction is exempt from the state sales tax, it is also exempt from the tourism tax. For example, admissions to fairs are exempt from the state sales tax, so they are also exempt from the tourism tax. However, admissions to rodeos, concessions, and rides at a fair are subject to sales tax, and therefore, the tourism tax.

Tourism tax is reported on the sales tax return using code 700-1 in the same manner municipal taxes are reported. The codes for reporting tourism tax with the following special taxing jurisdictions are:

Cheyenne River	408-5
Crow Creek	417-5
Rosebud	412-5
Standing Rock	413-5

Tourism tax does not apply on the Pine Ridge Special Jurisdiction. For additional instructions on reporting tax obligations within any of the special taxing jurisdictions please refer to the Tribal tax facts.

## **Hotels, Lodging Establishments and Campgrounds**

The gross receipts from the rental of sleeping accommodations or camping sites to transient guests are subject to the tourism tax. A transient guest is any person who resides in a lodging establishment fewer than 28 consecutive days. Only the lodging or camping sites are subject to the tourism tax unless their other operations (gift shop) meet any of the other tourism tax requirements. The rental of sleeping accommodations or camping sites for 10 days or less in a calendar year is considered occasional and not taxable.

## **Hotels and Lodging Establishments**

Any building, structure, or premise kept, used, advertised, maintained, or held out to the public to be a place where sleeping accommodations are furnished to transient guests are subject to the tourism tax.

- Bed and Breakfast
- Boarding House
- Bungalows
- Cabins
- Condominiums
- Cottages
- Villas
- Dude Ranches
- Guest Houses
- Guest Ranches
- Hostels
- Hotels
- Inns
- Lodges
- Motels
- Resorts
- Tourist Homes
- Timeshare Rentals
- Vacation Home Rentals

## **Campgrounds**

Any property or premise kept, used, maintained, advertised, or held out to the public to be a place where sites are available for the placing of tents, campers, trailers, mobile homes, or other mobile accommodations to transient guests are subject to the tourism tax.

- Campgrounds
- Camping Cabins
- Camping Resorts
- Commercial Picnic Grounds
- Organizational Camps
- Park Units
- Recreational Vehicle Parks
- Trailer Parks
- Youth Camps

## **Motor Vehicle Rental**

Motor vehicles that are automobiles, pickups and vans licensed under the noncommercial license fee schedule SDCL 32-5-6 with a manufacturers shipping weight, including accessories, of 10,000 pounds or less; rented in the state for 28 days or less are subject to the state sales tax, the state motor vehicle gross receipts tax (4.5%), the state tourism tax, plus applicable municipal tax. This tax is based on the amount of the rental payments.

## Tourism Tax

### Visitor Attraction

The gross receipts from admissions to any business establishment that offers recreation, entertainment, or interpretation of natural or cultural history are subject to the tourism tax. In addition, the sale of any products, services, parking, or transportation on the site of the visitor attraction is subject to the tourism tax. Tourism tax does not apply to the purchase of products or services used by the visitor attraction. Visitor attractions are:

- Aerial Tramways
- Amusement Parks
- Animal Exhibits
- Animal Shows
- Antique Exhibits
- Antique Car Exhibits
- Arboreta
- Aquariums
- Batting Cages
- Botanical Gardens
- Bumper Boats
- Bumper Cars
- Bungee Jumps
- Carnival Rides
- Chuckwagon Suppers
- Commercial Playgrounds
- Go-Cart Raceways
- Gold Mines
- Golf Driving Ranges
- Historic Sites
- Human Mazes
- Hunting Preserves
- Miniature Golf Courses
- Museums
- Music Shows
- Observation towers
- Outdoor Dramas
- Pitch n Putt Golf
- Playhouses
- Racetracks
- Recreational Gold Mining
- Reptile Exhibits
- Restorations
- Scenic Railroads
- Shooting Preserves
- Show Caves
- Ski Areas
- Spectator Events
- Water Slides
- Wave Pools
- Wax Figure Exhibits
- Zoological Gardens

### Recreational Service

The gross receipts from any business establishment that provides leisure or recreational activities are subject to tourism tax. Recreational services are:

- Aerial Sight-Seeing Tours
- Amusement Rides
- Bath Houses
- Carriage Rides
- Climbing Guides
- Day Camps
- Fishing Guides
- Fishing Ponds
- Golf Driving Ranges
- Hunting Guides
- Outfitters
- Pack Trains
- Private Beaches
- River Rafting
- Saddle Horse Rides
- Sight-seeing Guides
- Sight-seeing Tours
- Shooting Galleries
- Shooting Ranges<sup>1</sup>
- Skeet Ranges
- Ski Instruction
- Ski Lift Tickets
- Ski Trails
- Spas
- Trail Rides
- Trap Ranges
- Tour Bus Excursions
- Youth Camps

### Recreational Equipment Rental

All items rented for 28 days or fewer whose primary purpose is recreational use are subject to the tourism tax. Recreational equipment includes:

- All-Terrain Vehicles
- Beach Chairs
- Bicycles
- Bumper Boats
- Bumper Cars
- Campers
- Firearms
- Fishing Equipment
- Floatation Devices
- Go-Carts
- Golf Clubs
- Hunting Dogs
- Hunting Equipment
- Mopeds
- Motor Coaches
- Motorcycles
- Pack Animals
- Recreational Courts/Equipment
- Recreational Gold Mining Equipment
- Recreational Vehicles
- Recreational Water Equipment
- Rock Climbing Gear
- Rollerblades
- Saddle Horses
- Skis
- Snowboards
- Snowmobiles
- Snowmobile Trailers
- Snowshoes
- Watercraft

### Spectator Event

The gross receipts from admissions to any organized activity meant for entertainment or education and open to the public are subject to the tourism tax. The sale of any products, services, parking, or transportation on the site of the spectator event is subject to the tourism tax. Tourism tax does not apply to the purchase of products or services used to put on the event. Spectator events are:

- Air Shows
- Auto Races
- Auto Shows
- Balloon Shows
- Boat Races
- Car Rallies
- Carnivals
- Circuses
- Concerts
- Dance Festivals
- Draft Horse Contests
- Ethnic Festivals
- Exhibitions
- Expositions
- Fairs\*\*
- Greyhound Races
- Horse Races
- Horse Shows
- Monster Truck Shows
- Motorcycle Expositions
- Motorcycle Races
- Music Festivals
- Rodeos
- Sporting Events
- Stage Performances
- Threshing Bees
- Tractor Pull Contests
- Water-skiing Shows

\*\*The sale of tickets or admissions to the grounds and grandstand attractions, except rodeos and rodeo-related events, of state, county, district, regional, or local fairs are not subject to sales tax or tourism tax. Taxable transactions at fairs are subject to sales tax and tourism tax.

<sup>1</sup> Nonprofit shooting ranges are exempt from tourism tax.

### Visitor-Intensive Business

Visitor-intensive businesses are any of the following businesses that derive 50% or more of their total annual receipts during the months of June, July, August, and September. The tourism tax on a visitor-intensive business' receipts applies during the months of June, July, August, and September.

- Antique Shop
- Bookstore (excludes post-secondary, college, and university bookstores)
- Candy Store
- Flea Market
- Gift Shop
- Indigenous Arts/Crafts Shop
- Jewelry
- Lapidary Shop
- Leather Goods Shop
- Marina
- Novelty Shop
- Pottery Shop
- Rock Shop
- Souvenir Shop
- Tee-Shirt Shop

### Questions and Answers

- 1) **Q:** I make wooden toys that I sell at craft shows. Will I have to charge the tourism tax?  
**A:** Craft shows are expositions subject to the tourism tax as a spectator event. Your gross receipts are subject to the tourism tax at craft shows. If you also operate a store to sell your crafts, the sales at your store would be subject to the tax during June, July, August, and September if 50% or more of the total annual gross receipts from your craft business occurs during those four months.
- 2) **Q:** I operate a motel and a campground with a restaurant and gift shop. How does the tourism tax apply?  
**A:** The tax applies to the receipts for lodging and camping, and may apply to your gift shop. Your gift shop is subject to tourism tax during June, July, August and September if 50% or more of the gift shop's annual gross receipts occur during those months and the gift shop is distinct or physically separate from the other business. Receipts from the restaurant are not subject to the tourism tax.
- 3) **Q:** I run an amusement park with a snack shop. How will the tourism tax apply to my business?  
**A:** The amusement park is a visitor attraction. All gross receipts at visitor attractions, including admissions, gifts, parking, and snack shops are subject to tourism tax.
- 4) **Q:** As a hunting and fishing guide, are my services subject to the tourism tax?  
**A:** Yes. Gross receipts from commercial hunting and fishing operations, including guiding and any hunting or shooting preserve, are subject to the tourism tax.
- 5) **Q:** If I rent a passenger car for two weeks, will the rental fee be subject to the tourism tax?  
**A:** Yes. All passenger car rentals of 28 days or less are subject to tourism tax. The tax on rental cars is state sales tax + 4.5% motor vehicle tax + tourism tax + any applicable municipal sales tax.
- 6) **Q:** Each summer I run a basketball camp at a state university. The tourism tax applies to youth camps. Is my basketball camp a youth camp?  
**A:** Yes, basketball, baseball, wrestling, and other youth-oriented camps are recreational services and are subject to the tourism tax. The gross receipts you receive from providing that service are taxable.
- 7) **Q:** I operate a fitness center with recreational courts. How does the tax affect my business?  
**A:** The rental of recreational courts and equipment are subject to the tourism tax year-round. The tourism tax does not apply to membership fees or daily and weekly passes to fitness centers.
- 8) **Q:** When I go snow skiing, what items are taxable under the tourism tax?  
**A:** All the gross receipts from ski areas are subject to the tourism tax. That would include equipment rentals, instruction, lift tickets, and food and beverages.
- 9) **Q:** Our organization puts on an annual rodeo. How does this tax affect us?  
**A:** All gross receipts from admissions to a rodeo or rodeo-related activity or event are subject to the tourism tax. Food and concessions at the rodeo or rodeo-related activity or event are also subject to the tourism tax.
- 10) **Q:** Our city operates a swimming pool with a concession stand. Are these gross receipts covered by the tourism tax?  
**A:** No. Admissions to swimming pools and food concessions at swimming pools are not subject to the tax.
- 11) **Q:** I run a restaurant inside a museum. The museum doesn't charge admission. Does the tourism tax affect my business?  
**A:** A visitor attraction and spectator event includes any business which is being conducted on the site of another visitor attraction or spectator event. It doesn't matter that the museum doesn't charge admission; your restaurant is subject to the tax.
- 12) **Q:** I rent motor homes. Are they included in the definition of motor coaches under this tax?  
**A:** Yes, motor homes are motor coaches, which are subject to tourism tax if the rental is 28 days or less.

**13) Q:** I own an antique store that is only open in the summer. Am I subject to the tourism tax?

**A:** Antique stores are visitor-intensive businesses. Your business is subject to the tax during June, July, August, and September, if 50% or more of your annual gross receipts are during those months. If you are only open during those months, 100% of your gross receipts occur during those months and you are subject to the tax.

**14) Q:** I opened a new year-round bookstore on March 15, 2010. Am I subject to the tourism tax during the first summer of operation?

**A:** The tax applies to bookstores only if 50% or more of the gross receipts occur during June, July, August, and September. Because your business is new, the percentage of your gross receipts that occur during the first summer is unknown. You will not be subject to the tax during the first summer. If 50% or more of your first year's gross receipts occur during June, July, August, and September, you will be subject to the tax the following summer. If you purchased an existing bookstore, the previous owner's gross receipts will be used to decide if your business is subject to the tax this year.

**15) Q:** I pay my sales tax twice a year. How do I determine if 50% of my gross receipts occur during June, July, August, and September?

**A:** Even though you pay your sales tax in July and December, you are not exempt from the tourism tax. You need to analyze your sales to determine when your sales occur. You cannot rely on your semi annual sales tax returns for the information to make the determination.

**16) Q:** I own a marina with a small restaurant, boat repair shop, and campground. How does the tourism tax apply to my business?

**A:** Marinas are only subject to the tax during June, July, August, and September, and then only if 50% or more of the marina's total annual gross receipts occur during those months. If 50% or more of the marina's gross receipts occur during those four months, then 100% of the marina's gross receipts are tourism taxable during that period. The gross receipts occurring outside those four months are not subject to tourism tax.

**17) Q:** I own a visitor attraction business, how does the expanded tax apply to my business?

**A:** Visitor attractions are subject to the tax year-round. All of the gross receipts from business conducted at the visitor attraction are subject to the tax.

**18) Q:** I operate a golf course. The tourism tax applies to golf driving ranges and the rental of golf clubs. Does that tax apply to my green fees, because the driving range is a recreational service?

**A:** The rental of golf clubs is subject to tourism tax as the rental of recreational equipment. The rental of carts, green fees and other admissions are subject to sales tax but are not subject to the tourism tax. If your golf course has a driving range, the golf ball rental or any other charge you implement in order to use the driving range is subject to the sales and tourism taxes. Also, the rental of golf clubs is subject to the sales and tourism taxes.

**19) Q:** A bus tour starts in Rapid City and will stop at various points in the Black Hills, including Mount Rushmore, Deadwood and Keystone. A guide will narrate the trip. Does tourism tax apply?

**A:** Because the trip includes service in addition to the transportation, this trip is subject to the 4% state tax plus the tourism tax.

Municipal sales tax applies to tours that begin, end, and are only to destinations within the same city. Tours to destinations outside the city in which the tour begins and ends are not subject to municipal sales tax. Bus tours to destinations outside South Dakota are not subject to sales tax.

**20) Q:** Are Fitness Center Memberships taxed?

**A:** Membership fees for fitness centers are subject to the 4% state sales tax plus municipal sales tax. Weekly and daily passes to fitness centers are subject to the 4% state sales tax plus municipal sales tax, no municipal gross receipts tax or tourism tax.

### Talk to Us!

If you have a tax problem or question, call the South Dakota Department of Revenue toll-free at 1-800-829-9188. Visit us on the web at [dor.sd.gov](http://dor.sd.gov), email us at [bustax@state.sd.us](mailto:bustax@state.sd.us) or write us:

**South Dakota  
Department of Revenue  
445 East Capitol Ave.  
Pierre, SD 57501-3100**

Or, visit your nearest Department of Revenue Field Office:

Aberdeen 419 Moccasin Drive Aberdeen, SD 57401	Sioux Falls 300 S. Sycamore, Suite 102 Sioux Falls, SD 57110
Mitchell 417 N. Main St., Suite 112 Mitchell, SD 57301-2600	Watertown 1505 10th Ave. SE, Suite 1 Watertown, SD 57201
Rapid City 4447 S. Canyon Road, Suite 6 Rapid City, SD 57702	Yankton 1900 Summit Street Yankton, SD 57078-1951

## Bed Tax Faults

- Kenai peninsula residents would be burdened with this when traveling for recreation, business, medical, school, sports, and other activities.
- Does not tax cruise ship tourists.
- Additionally burdens a small portion of the tourism industry which already pays by far the highest property taxes. A \$2 million hotel pays 20 times what a \$2 million tour boat pays.
- Tourists will feel exploited. In Homer at 11.5%, 4 nights in a \$220 room, the tax would be over \$100.
- The bed tax in Anchorage makes sense because there is no sales tax and essentially no other tourism services. The FAA does not allow for the taxing of air flights.
- If necessary, there are much more equitable revenue sources, such as a broad based Tourism Service Industry tax, similar to the one in South Dakota. This would encompass ALL tourism service businesses such as hotels, motels, B & B's, tour boats (the majority of passengers are from out of state), eco-tours, fishing charters, etc., but not any retail products.



**Blankenship, Johni**

---

**From:** peter zuyus <ptzsr1@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 21, 2014 3:32 PM  
**To:** Blankenship, Johni; Navarre, Mike; McClure, Sue; Bagley, Dale; Wolf, Kelly; Johnson, Brent; Smalley, Hal; Smith, Bill; Haggerty, Mako; Pierce, Charlie; Ogle, Wayne  
**Subject:** July 22 Assembly meeting  
**Attachments:** july22comments.doc

Dear Johni,

Please see that the Mayor and Assembly have a copy of the attached comments on several items on the agenda for July,22. I appreciate your assistance.

Thank you,  
Peter T. Zuyus

**Comments respectfully submitted by  
Peter T. Zuyus, Homer Area**

**Comments on Ordinances being proposed for Tuesday July 22, 2014**

**Ordinance 2014-24**

This Ordinance is a throw back to the old days of keeping voters ignorant. It was used by politicians to retain political power. The expression was "An educated voter is a dangerous voter". Let 's not go backwards. This may even be a voter rights violation. The suggestion of reducing voter education is very suspicious and raises the question; Why?

**VOTE NO**

**Ordinance 2014-25**

This is a tax on Alaskans, not visiting tourists. Its distribution is wide open for financial malfeasance and motives for the Ordinance are questionable.

**VOTE NO**

**Resolution 2014-048**

This is a straightforward attempt to expand KPB bureaucracy at the taxpayer's expense. Think save, not spend. This is a legislative vacuum cleaner of taxpayer funds. Just what is the \$95,000 for? Legislative malfeasance? Please do not tread there.

**Please remove from the agenda**

## Blankenship, Johni

---

**From:** Bob's Cabin <bobscabinak@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 22, 2014 11:12 AM  
**To:** Wolf, Kelly; Smalley, Hal; Ogle, Wayne; Bagley, Dale; Pierce, Charlie; McClure, Sue; Johnson, Brent; Smith, Bill; Haggerty, Mako; Blankenship, Johni  
**Subject:** BED TAX  
**Importance:** High

Dear Assembly Members:

I am opposed to the proposed BED TAX ordinance being placed on an upcoming ballot. We already have a sales tax ranging from 3% - 7.5%; depending on where your business resides. I understand this proposed tax would be an additional 4% tax on top of the already sales tax in place. This would make a total tax of 7% - 11.5%.

I operate a small fishing lodge and book fishing/lodging PACKAGES. I do not separate out the lodging from the fishing receipts. I pay a Borough sales tax on the entire amount. We are going to end up in the same situation we had some years back when lodges and guides were trying to separate the lodging and guiding. Finally, the Borough made a determination to charge a sales on the total package.; WITHOUT a monetary cap. Here we go again; if this proposed ordinance is passed. How to we separate lodging, fishing charters, fish processing, etc. if it is sold as a package? It will be a nightmare that we don't need.

I currently pay thousands of dollars annually for marketing, SEO (Search Engine Optimization), website design, etc. for my business. I don't need nor do I want to pay someone else (KPTMC) to do this for me by collecting an additional tax from my clients. We don't need more marketing for tourists. I, as well as most lodges and B&Bs, have plenty of business. In the last 3 years, I have paid over \$39,000 in Borough sales taxes on my fishing/lodging packages. I am happy to pay and support the Borough with this sales tax. However, I would not be happy to add an additional 4% tax on top of this, just to throw the money into a pot for general tourism marketing. We don't need it and I don't support it. If I need marketing, I will pay for it myself. Why should I pay KPTMC to market my competitors?

Thank you for your time and I encourage you not to approve putting the proposed ordinance on the October ballot.

Regards,

Bob Standish, Owner  
Bob's Cabin & Guide Service  
PO Box 1106  
Kenai, Alaska 99611