

## **Cruise Ship Ballot Initiative (CSBI)**

**PURPOSE:** To plug the leaks in the Alaska cruise ship law (passed in 2001) for ships carrying over 250 passengers which failed to adopt meaningful protections for Alaska waters and fisheries resources, and establish reasonable taxes to offset the industry's impact on Alaskan communities. The CSBI was written by Alaskans and is sponsored by the Juneau-based group Responsible Cruising in Alaska.

### **1. The cruise industry doesn't pay its fair share**

The CSBI will establish a state-wide \$50 "head-tax" on each of the nearly 1,000,000 passengers coming to Alaska on cruise ships. Fishermen pay taxes on fish, the oil industry pays royalties on oil – yet Alaskans pay thousands of dollars in local taxes every year to support cruise industry infrastructure. Even though cruise passengers pay head-taxes all over the world, the industry has stopped every Alaskan community except Juneau and Ketchikan from levying a head-tax by threatening to abandon the town. The head-tax will be shared by impacted communities: \$5/passenger to each port of call, 25% of total revenue to non-port of call communities, with the rest going to improve State ports and harbors.

The CSBI will require cruise ships to pay the same percentage of gambling profits (33%) to the State for charities and taxes as required of all other gaming industries. The cruise industry is alone in paying no taxes on gambling profits at this time.

The CSBI will reinstate the apportioned income tax on cruise industry marine operations rescinded in 1998 by the Alaska Legislature. All other major corporations pay the State income tax.

### **2. The cruise industry can't be trusted to not pollute**

The CSBI will require that cruise ships obtain a discharge permit from the State (as required now for all other dischargers) that would apply to all cruise ship pollutants and wastestreams. The current cruise ship anti-pollution law fails to regulate most pollutants and critical wastestreams, even though every major cruise ship line has been convicted on multiple felony charges for dumping, falsifying records, and lying to our government.

Cruise ship discharges may be exceeding Alaska Water Quality Standards (WQS) for bacteria, metals, plastics, and hydrocarbons, but because they operate without a permit and without standard monitoring programs we simply don't know what is being dumped on any given day. Many ships have chosen to dump their waste 12 miles off shore rather than install better treatment systems.

Alaska needs effective monitoring and enforcement programs and sufficient legal remedies for ships that violate our pollution regulations. The CSBI will use \$4 of the head-tax to place an independent, certified, marine engineer aboard every ship while in Alaskan waters to observe ship waste treatment practices and system maintenance procedures, verify logbook entries, and sample ship discharges.

### **3. The cruise industry is unfair to local merchants**

The CSBI will require ship personnel, when promoting specific stores and tours, to inform passengers if they have or will be paid for the "advertisement." The cruise industry charges shore-side operators up to 45% of retail ticket prices for some tours, and takes a percentage of the monthly gross from many gift shops – without any disclosure of these kickbacks to the passengers. Locally-owned stores and tours that don't or can't pay are often bypassed by potential customers.

**IT'S TIME FOR CRUISE SHIPS TO PAY THEIR FAIR SHARE OF TAXES  
AND FOLLOW ALASKA'S POLLUTION REGULATIONS**

**VOTE YES ON THE  
CRUISE SHIP BALLOT INITIATIVE**

For more information, contact RCA at 586-8193 or 766-3005.