



Greater Juneau Chamber of Commerce

9301 Glacier Hwy, Suite 110 • Juneau AK 99801 • (907)463-3488

Board Members

Charlie Williams

*President
Valley Paint Center*

Eric Forst

*President-Elect
Red Dog Saloon*

Mike Satre

*Past President
Hecla Greens Creek Mine*

Richard Burns

Juneau Radio Center

Max Mertz

*Treasurer
Mertz CPA & Advisor*

Bruce Denton

*Secretary
Juneau Self Storage*

Eric Eriksen

AEL&P/AVISTA

McHugh Pierre

Goldbelt Inc.

Erica Simpson-Qureshi

Platinum Real Estate Group

Benjamin Brown

Perseverance Theatre

Wayne Jensen

Jensen Yorba Wall

Mike Stedman

Alaska Seaplanes

John Blasco

Alaskan Brewing Co.

Lorene Palmer

Palmer & Associates

March 13, 2020

The Honorable Michael J. Dunleavy, Governor
State of Alaska
PO Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811-001

Re: Closure of the Port of Seattle

Dear Governor Dunleavy:

We are writing to you to express our deep concern over the unprecedented action taken by the Port of Seattle in closing their port to cruise ships on port calls effectively delaying the start of the 2020 cruise season.

While this 'delay' doesn't impact Alaska, the fact remains that SE Alaska's visitor industry is the lifeblood of the community and to have our entire industry at the mercy of the Port of Seattle is more than unsettling.

The visitor industry, contrary to popular misconceptions, is largely driven by small Alaska companies and mom and pop businesses, whose entire economic welfare is compressed into 5 short months of the season. These are not 'big business', but cumulatively have a big impact on communities and the state. Put simply, many of these businesses are not in a position to withstand the devastating economic impact of a season with significantly lower number of customers. The cruise industry generates \$1.35 billion per year in Alaska and of that, \$914 million is from direct spending by passengers and \$465 million in wages to 14,500 Alaska workers. Apart from that, the industry also provides \$100 million each year in revenues to the state and local governments.

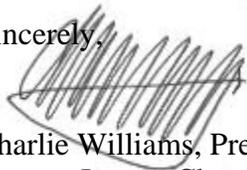
While there are legitimate concerns regarding Covid-19, the Port of Seattle has 50,000,000 people each year travelling through SEATAC with no restrictions at all and less than 1,400,000 through the cruise port. It's difficult not to see the inequity in this approach. The Port of Seattle is being extremely inequitable with their shutdown of the terminals.

The Greater Juneau Chamber of Commerce is respectfully asking that you open a dialogue with Washington's Governor Inslee and impress upon him the critical nature of the relationship between the Port of Seattle and the economic health of Alaska, and SE Alaska specifically. While Seattle may be able to withstand the loss of cruise ships, SE Alaska, and the state more generally, simply cannot.

We are also aware that a proposal from Cruise Lines International Association was submitted to the White House Tuesday to Vice President Pence proposing enhanced measures across the industry to address Covid-19 concerns. These included denying passage to any person over the age of 70 years unless they are able to present a doctor's note verifying their fitness for travel on a cruise ship. We believe that measures can be implemented that will protect the citizens who wish to undertake a cruise this season.

The Chamber asks that you advance discussions with the administration and ask for a speedy resolution for the cruise industry to provide clarity not only for the industry, but for passengers and the small businesses that rely on the industry for their livelihood.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Charlie Williams', written over a faint circular stamp or watermark.

Charlie Williams, President
Greater Juneau Chamber of Commerce

cc: Ben Stevens, Chief of Staff
Senator Jesse Kiehl
Representative Andi Story
Representative Sara Hannan