

## Debra Thompson

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**From:** karen severson <fvodinfamilie@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 4, 2022 8:40 AM  
**To:** Assembly  
**Cc:** Stephen Giesbrecht  
**Subject:** Resolution in support of the Ocean Ranger program

Dear Assembly Members and City Manager,

We hope you support and pass the Resolution to amend SB 180. We need the Ocean Ranger program to stay in law and that it is also funded for 2023.

It is crucial to Southeast that we have the Ocean Rangers eyes and ears on deck of these large cruise ships. The Cruise Ship industry has proven to not be trust worthy.

The Department of Environmental Conservation needs more funding to prosecute when these egregious acts occur. The commercial fishing fleet has seen disturbing discharges from the cruise ships for years. Randy Bates of DEC water division who is now in charge of supervising the Cruise Industry has asked commercial fishermen to be the watchdogs when they see violations. We have reported and DEC did nothing. The Cruise Industry only self reported when they were caught in the act with evidence. Without Rangers we will never know what is being discharged in our fjords and bays.

We need to insist on a better plan.

The cruise lines are tired of the Ocean Rangers breathing down their backs. The Governor has made it his mission since being elected to defund and remove the program. He wants "Alaska open for business" and cares little about the cost to our environment.

We hope the legislature will approve to increase the passenger fee from \$4 to \$20, the cost of a fancy cocktail. This would provide funds for Ocean Rangers, and money to Southeast community waste facility upgrades. It would also help DEC with funding needed to follow up with reported violations they receive.

We are hoping other communities join in this effort to stand up for Alaska.

We appreciate your efforts and hard work in this fight. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Karen and Mark Severson

Sent from my iPad