

April 3, 2022

Dear Mayor and Assembly,

I am writing today encouraging your support for the continuation of the Ocean Ranger Program.

The citizens of the State of Alaska voted to put this program in place in 2006. Our Governor single handedly removed the program without listening to the people.

It is so very important to many that we keep this program alive. Our clean waters are vital to our livelihoods (fishing, charter) and subsistence lifestyles.

Our eyes were rudely opened to what was going on during the fall of 2019. When our son came across miles of sludge in Stevens Passage during the dark of night.

Ironically the following summer my husband Ladd came across a discharge in Stevens Passage. Samples were taken, date, time, latitude and longitude recorded, the name of the ship that was leaving the trail. All to no avail. DEC would not accept the information.

Ladd also reported a major discharge in our own boat harbor that summer.

The same summer Gerald Whitethorn reported some sort of waste in front of our own LeConte Bay.

The Ocean Ranger Program is paid for by the passengers of the ships. There is no cost to the State of Alaska why wouldn't one support this program?

Some say that money can be used to cover the costs of pump stations in our communities. It is said those funds would not even begin to cover the costs.

It is very apparent and a sad fact that the cruise ship companies cannot be trusted to self report. As most of the reports that have taken place in the past were done so after, an Ocean Ranger made the ships captain aware of a situation.

I believe that if the passengers of these ships were made aware of what these cruise line companies are doing. The passengers would be appalled.

Please show you care for our Alaskan Waters by showing your support for the Ocean Ranger Program.

Cruise Ship companies are happy to bring tourists to Our Beautiful Alaska and we are happy to have them. As we are all tourists at some point. However, they literally dump waste (shit) on us as they leave our cities. This has to STOP!

Respectfully, Brenda Norheim