

## Debra Thompson

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**From:** Ronn and Tina Buschmann <buschmann@gci.net>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 2, 2022 9:29 AM  
**To:** Assembly  
**Subject:** Ocean Ranger Program

Dear Assembly members,

I am writing to support the continuation of the Ocean Ranger program. This program was established as a result of a citizen referendum in 2006 and is paid for by a small tax on Cruise Line tickets. Those of us that derive our livelihood and feed our families from the waters of Alaska are appalled at the amount of refuse, human pollution, and airborne and waterborn(from scrubbers) pollution that is dumped into Alaskan waters every year.

This Ocean Ranger narrative has been twisted into a pro verses anti tourism which is really a misdirected argument. The Ocean Ranger program is in place to protect Alaskan waters from pollution. The anti Ocean Ranger group argues that DEC can accomplish the role of the Ocean Rangers and that self enforcement should be sufficient. First of all DEC has a history of not following up on pollution complaints and not supporting the Ocean Ranger program. As to self-enforcement, the following illustrates that self enforcement hasn't worked:

Carnival Cruise lines, the major cruise line company operating in Alaska with Holland America and Princess among its subsidiaries, was fined \$40,000,000 and put on a 5 Year probation in 2017 for illegal pollution. They were fined an additional \$20,000,000 in 2019 for violating that probation. A court ordered inspection of some of Carnival's cruise ships found that in addition to the monitored overboard piping, five boats had additional illegal unmonitored piping installed when the boats were built.

The Ocean Rangers program is not anti tourism; it's to keep everybody honest and protect our waters.

Ronn Buschmann

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows