



**RESOLUTION of the Board of Directors 2024-03:
*JEDC Opposition to CBJ Ballot Proposition #2 “Ship-Free Saturdays”***

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the Juneau Economic Development Council (JEDC) has assembled in a meeting this the 10th day of September 2024;

WHEREAS, the JEDC’s initiatives aim to help make Juneau a great (capital) city, strengthen key regional industries, promote entrepreneurship and small businesses, and deliver economic development services;

WHEREAS, the JEDC is committed to fostering sustainable economic growth and improving quality of life for residents of Juneau and Southeast Alaska;

WHEREAS, Juneau’s economy relies on a diversified set of sectors, including tourism, state, local, and tribal government, mining, seafood, arts and culture, and other sectors, all of which contribute to the city's economic stability and prosperity;

WHEREAS, the cruise tourism industry is an essential component of Juneau's economy, with over a million annual passenger arrivals contributing significantly to local business revenues, employment opportunities, and the overall economic health of the city;

WHEREAS, City and Borough of Juneau (CBJ) Ballot Proposition #2 “Ship-Free Saturdays” proposes banning large cruise ships from docking in Juneau on Saturdays and the Fourth of July starting in 2025, which would significantly reduce visitor spending and negatively affect businesses, jobs, and the community;

WHEREAS, the JEDC recognizes that Juneau faces several challenges, including a declining population, fiscal instability, an aging demographic, net emigration, housing affordability issues, and a shrinking workforce, all of which could be exacerbated by policies that undermine vital economic drivers like tourism;

WHEREAS, the JEDC recognizes that our economy’s current diversity of private sector industries relies on mining and the seafood industry, and that mining is a non-renewable extraction industry that is not permanently sustainable for our economy, and our seafood industry is subject to natural fluctuations and vulnerable to climate change, and therefore we cannot place additional burden on these two major private sector industries;

WHEREAS, the JEDC recognizes that Juneau’s role as the Capital City of Alaska carries an expectation that we present to the world the welcoming character of Alaskans and that limiting visitors to our Capital City could be perceived by both Alaskans and outsiders that we are not fulfilling our expectations to represent Alaska;

WHEREAS, the JEDC has identified both short-term and long-term impacts that would result from the ban proposed in Proposition #2, including:



- Loss of \$42 million in cruise passenger spending on Saturdays, directly affecting local businesses, retail shops, and service providers.¹
- Loss of \$2.1 million in tourism sales tax revenue to the CBJ, reducing funding for essential public services.²
- Loss of \$1.8 million in Marine Passenger Fees, critical for maintaining facilities and infrastructure.³
- Loss of \$358k in cruise ship wharfage, port maintenance, potable water, vessel lightering, and greywater hook-up fees to CBJ Docks & Harbors.⁴
- Revenue losses in the local retail and restaurant sector, dependent on high weekend and holiday tourist traffic.⁵
- Population decline, net emigration, and aging demographics may be exacerbated, as fewer job opportunities and weakening industries push more residents to leave Juneau;

WHEREAS, the JEDC recognizes that our local government is aware of negative and positive impacts of tourism on different segments of our population and has reached agreements with Cruise Lines to mitigate negative impacts and increase positive impacts of cruise tourism on Juneau and its citizens; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Board of Directors of the Juneau Economic Development Council express opposition to CBJ Ballot Proposition #2 entitled “Ship-Free Saturdays” and encourage Juneau voters to vote “No” on Proposition #2.

The undersigned hereby certify that the Board of Directors of the Juneau Economic Development Council duly adopted this Resolution on September 10, 2024.

Garrett Schoenberger
JEDC Board Chair

Melissa Kookesh
JEDC Board Secretary

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1. *CBJ Annual Comprehensive Financial Report, 2022-2023. Pg. 224. Gross business sales by tourist-related business divided by seven, multiplied by 80% (percentage of tourism derived from cruise ship passengers, according to page viii, second to last paragraph).*
 2. *CBJ Annual Comprehensive Financial Report, 2022-2023. Pg. 224. Gross business sales by tourist-related business divided by seven, multiplied by 5% levied sales tax, multiplied by 80% (percentage of tourism derived from cruise ship passengers, according to page viii, second to last paragraph).*
 3. *CBJ Annual Comprehensive Financial Report, 2022-2023. Pg. 142. Total Marine passenger fees divided by seven.*
 4. *CBJ Docks and Harbors.*
 5. *CBJ Annual Comprehensive Financial Report, 2022-2023. Pg. 224. Gross business sales by tourist-related business divided by seven, multiplied by 80% (percentage of tourism derived from cruise ship passengers, according to page viii, second to last paragraph).*