
Request for independent cruise-ship air monitoring in Juneau

From Darsi Johnson

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To Borough Assembly <BoroughAssembly@juneau.gov>

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Dear Visitor Industry Task Force and Assembly Members:

I request that CBJ establish an independent, continuous air-quality monitoring program during cruise season.

Alaska DEC's 2019 study detected short-term cruise-ship effects on downtown Juneau's air, even though overall air quality remained within federal standards. Since that study, cruise traffic and public concern have continued. Federal compliance alone does not tell residents what they are breathing during individual exhaust events or whether pollution is concentrated in particular downtown locations.

The program should measure PM2.5, ultrafine particles, nitrogen dioxide and sulfur dioxide; include wind direction and ship-location data; compare ship and non-ship days; and publish hourly results online. Monitoring locations should include the waterfront, downtown residential areas and at least one comparison site away from ship traffic.

I ask the Task Force to include this recommendation in its final report and ask the Assembly to direct staff to develop a scope, budget and funding proposal before the 2027 cruise season.

This is a measured, evidence-based request. Protecting public health while gathering reliable local information is responsible port management, not opposition to tourism.

Sincerely,
Darsi Johnson
Juneau, Alaska