

Resolution 12-08
A RESOLUTION BY THE KODIAK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
OBJECTING TO THE IMPLEMENTATION AND ENFORCEMENT OF EPA'S NEW
NORTH AMERICAN EMISSION CONTROL AREA (ECA) RULE.

WHERE AS, the Kodiak Chamber of Commerce (Kodiak Chamber) represents nearly 350 businesses and organizations, with 6,500 employees, through the community of Kodiak and continually seeks to improve the business climate and ensure a strong, diverse and healthy economy for the Kodiak region; and

WHERE AS, the EPA's new ECA rule requires a new national emission standard for category three engines and limits sulfur in class three ship fuels to 1% starting August 1, 2012, and lowers that to 0.1% after December 31, 2014; and

WHERE AS, the ECA rule will affect all cruise and cargo ships in Southwest and Southeast Alaska. Because the ECA rule requires marine cargo carriers and cruise lines to use expensive and difficult to obtain low-sulfur fuel, the increase shipping costs from these regulations will be passed on to Alaskans driving the cost of consumers goods, freight and transportation upwards where the cost of living already exceeds the national average; and

WHERE AS, the cargo industry is a critical component of Kodiak's economy and provides Kodiak Island an efficient means of transporting goods on and off of the island. The new ECA requirement will increase the cost of living and the cost of doing business in Kodiak; and


WHERE AS, the EPA's new emission control area was extended to Alaska without any adequately proven or documented scientific studies. The State of Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation has not documented any ambient air quality issues related to shipping. In addition, the EPA did not conduct any economic analysis of the potential negative effects of the ECA on Alaskan communities; and

WHERE AS, the new ECA rule covers only a portion of Alaska. The Western Aleutians are exempt to allow for international freighter traffic across the Pacific. There are also specific provisions for Great Lakes boat owners that would allow them to petition for temporary exemption from the long-term ECA fuel sulfur requirement when economic hardship is claimed. The Kodiak Chamber of Commerce believes that the EPA's "zero tolerance" for sulfur emission will create economic hardship for our region; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Kodiak Chamber of Commerce requests exclusion of Alaska's coasts from the North American Environmental Protection Agency Emission Control Area until actual ambient air testing and Alaska specific modeling studies are performed.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Kodiak Chamber of Commerce this 13th day of August, 2012.

Attest



Lindsay Knight, President



Trevor Brown, Executive Director