



Chair Hopkins and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to comment today on HJR13. For the record, my name is Kati Capozzi, and I serve as the President and CEO at the Alaska Chamber. The Chamber was founded in 1953, and our mission is to advocate for a healthy business environment in Alaska. The Chamber has more than 700 members and represents businesses of all sizes and industries from across the state.

The Alaska Chamber supports the passage of HJR13.

The tourism industry and the communities that rely on tourism need immediate Congressional action to allow cruise ships to return to Alaska. As this committee knows, there are multiple hurdles the large cruise operators face. Allowing for an exemption from certain provisions of the Passenger Vessel Services Act in a meaningful first step in signaling to the cruise operators that they can return to Alaska.

The Chamber thanks the sponsors of HJR13 in prioritizing this issue and shedding awareness on the importance of the tourism industry to all of Alaska and the need for swift action. The absence of large cruise ships in Alaska for a second season will irrevocably damage businesses and communities in all regions of the state.

The Chamber encourages swift passage of House Joint Resolution 13.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

