**ACTION ALERT**

TAKE 5 MINUTES TO PROTECT ALASKA’S WATERS FROM CRUISE SHIP DUMPING

*Governor Parnell’s Bill Will Increase Pollution in Coastal Waters*

**BACKGROUND:** Cruise ships are floating cities that produce and discharge large volumes of sewage and other harmful wastes. In 2006, [Alaska voters passed a statewide ballot initiative](http://statewideballotinitiative.com) requiring cruise ships to reduce their pollution dumping in Alaskan waters (i.e., from the shoreline out to 3 miles). In response, cruise ship lobbyists pushed through legislation in 2009 to establish an industry-dominated “Science Panel,” which immediately set out gathering information to weaken the 2006 citizen initiative (industry lobbyists excluded the most knowledgeable public interest voice in Alaska from the panel because they did not want any opposition to their pollution rollback plans).

**WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW:** The Parnell Administration – on behalf of the cruise ship corporations – has introduced companion bills in the Alaska House ([HB 80](http://alaska.gov/HB80)) and Senate ([SB 29](http://alaska.gov/SB29)) – which will once again allow cruise ships to rely on pollution “mixing zones” to meet state water quality standards. Mixing zones embrace the long-discounted notion that “dilution is the solution to pollution,” and they create sacrifice zones which violate the fishable and swimmable goals of the Clean Water Act.

**TAKE ACTION:** Contact your Senate & House Representative ASAP! Floor votes are coming soon! Here is a [list of legislator emails and phone numbers](http://legislature.alaska.gov/contact-legislator), and here is a [list of legislators](http://legislature.alaska.gov/).  

**TALKING POINTS:**
- Cruise are huge floating cities and the technology exists to reduce cruise ship pollution; if a few ships need more time to comply, build in a 3 year compliance schedule
- Cruise ships corporations rake in huge profits and should not use Alaskan waters as their dumping grounds
- Cruise ship dumping will harm our ability to market our fish and shellfish as safe and sustainable
- Alaskans spoke in 2006 and Governor Parnell and the legislature should listen to the will of the people
- Alaskans rely on our coastal waters for recreational and business, and it makes no sense to pollute the fish, shellfish and coastal areas that make Alaska special
- Dilution is not the solution to pollution; cruise ships should not be allowed to use moving mixing zones which can overlap with other mixing zones
- If cruise ships are allowed to discharge in Alaskan waters, there should be exclusion zones around critical habitat areas, shellfish farm and important fisheries.

**MORE INFO:**
[Statement from Campaign to Safeguard America’s Waters (1/1/13)](http://www.safeguardwaters.org)
[ADEC Cruise Ship Website](http://www.alaska-gov.com/cruise-ships)