From: Campellone, Estrella F CIV USARMY CEPOA (USA)
To: Robin Reich
Subject: FW: #POA-2019-00313 Public Comment (UNCLASSIFIED)
Date: Wednesday, September 18, 2019 2:54:00 PM

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

FYI

-----Original Message-----
From: Pagemaster, Reg POA
Sent: Wednesday, September 18, 2019 1:15 PM
To: Campellone, Estrella F CIV USARMY CEPOA (USA) <Estrella.F.Campellone@usace.army.mil>
Cc: Pagemaster, Reg POA <regpagemaster@usace.army.mil>
Subject: FW: #POA-2019-00313 Public Comment

FYI

-----Original Message-----
From: Peter Jacob [mailto:petermikejack@hotmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, September 17, 2019 6:08 PM
To: Pagemaster, Reg POA <regpagemaster@usace.army.mil>
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] #POA-2019-00313 Public Comment

To whom it may concern,

I am a resident of Ketchikan, Alaska and I am very concerned about the proposed Ward Cove Dock Project.

If this project is allowed to happen it will most certainly have a large (and mostly negative) impact on the local environment, as well as the quality of life for local residents.

I urge you to hold a public forum so that community members can be fully informed on the details of this project and so that people can fully vocalize their concerns about this potentially calamitous plan.

The proposed site of this cruise ship dock would sit right on top of the former footprint of a toxin laden pulp mill site. It is my understanding that the sea-floor has a cap of sediment and debris that is protecting the surrounding waters from the copious amounts of dioxin and other carcinogens that were deposited there during the operating lifespan of the pulp mill.

I fail to see how it is possible for a cruise ship dock that is large enough to berth ships such as the Norwegian Bliss or the Norwegian Joy to not upset the layer of toxins that are underneath. The construction of this dock (which may include dredging) as well as the regular usage of this dock by large vessels will almost certainly release and disperse these poisonous compounds throughout the surrounding waters which is a direct threat to the health of our salmon, other marine wildlife and the local residents.

This dock is being sold to the residents of Ketchikan as a means by which to alleviate some of the congestion that currently happens in the downtown area during peak cruise ship season. I do not think that this will be the case. North Tongass highway will definitely become nearly impassable for most of the day if large ships are allowed to dump their passengers in Ward Cove. Bus traffic will make commuting to town from out north an awful

experience. Although much of the foot traffic that would congest downtown will be spread out to Ward Cove, I do not believe that this will lower congestion altogether, rather (I suspect) it will become an excuse for even more cruise ships to dock throughout the day. While this may be good for the economy in some sense it will drastically lower the quality of life for local residents.

Then there is the experience for the cruise ship guests. Nobody wants to come to Alaska and then dock in Ward Cove instead of Ketchikan. Visitors will be disgruntled and will feel cheated. There is no commercial infrastructure for cruise ship passengers in Ward Cove at the moment. This means that anything that will be built for the incoming guests will be absolutely phony and totally contrived. Most visitors are smart enough to realize that they are being duped.

There are already several tour operators that run small tour businesses out of Ward Cove. They will most likely be unable to maintain their current business models if cruise ships are docking in the direct path of their current tour routes.

Ketchikan is already completely inundated with cruise ship passengers nearly every day of the summer. Although they are the life blood of our economy, there is a certain point where we could simply have too many guests and nobody will win except for the cruise ship companies who are profiting from exploiting our natural resources and the ignorance of their customers.

I have worked in tourism my entire adult life and I understand more-so than most just how critical the guests that we get in the summer months are to our town's economy. But this proposed Ward Cove Dock Projects is quite frankly the worst plan I have ever heard of.

Please help us. I urge you to not only hold a public forum about this project, but also to outright deny this project from ever reaching fruition.

In conclusion:

This project directly threatens environmental health through the release and dispersal of toxic compounds.

This project will negatively impact the quality of life and standard of living for local community members (especially the hundreds of people that live north of Ward Cove).

This project will not solve the congestion problem that is being claimed to serve as a remedy for. It will, in fact, exacerbate it.

This project will endanger the existence of business owners that are currently operating in and around Ward Cove.

This project will decrease the overall quality of the experiences that the cruise ship passengers will have.

This project will benefit only a small number of people who are trying to push this through.

I thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

-Peter Jacob

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