

U.S. Senate bill tabled that would allow cruise ships to bypass B.C. ports permanently

From: Sukumar.Periwal@gov.bc.ca, Periwal, Sukumar IGRS:EX <Sukumar.Periwal@gov.bc.ca>
To: Frank.Stendardo@international.gc.ca, Jerome.Belanger@international.gc.ca
Cc: kirsten.kazlauskas@international.gc.ca, Longpre Igrs:Ex <nicole.longpre@gov.bc.ca>, Longpre, Nicole IGRS:EX <Nicole.Longpre@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: June 10, 2021 3:55:56 PM PDT

Dear Frank and Jerome

Hello from BC - hope you are well.

As you will see from the news story attached below, Senator Lee's bill enabling cruise lines to bypass Canada permanently is receiving attention. I have been asked on an urgent basis by my Deputy Minister to get the Embassy's expert opinion on the prospects for this proposed legislation, why Senator Lee is engaged on this issue, and what Canada's plans are for advocacy.

May I please ask for any advice you are able to share at your earliest convenience?

Many thanks in advance
Sukumar

<https://www.cheknews.ca/u-s-senate-bill-tabled-that-would-allow-cruise-ships-to-bypass-b-c-ports-permanently-817301/>

RE: quesiton

From : Anderson, Steve JERI:EX <Steve.Anderson@gov.bc.ca>
To: Periwal, Sukumar IGRS:EX <Sukumar.Periwal@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Hamman, Lauren IGRS:EX <Lauren.Hamman@gov.bc.ca>, Longpre, Nicole IGRS:EX <Nicole.Longpre@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: June 10, 2021 4:49:04 PM PDT

Do you know why it died on previous attempts?

From: Periwal, Sukumar IGRS:EX <Sukumar.Periwal@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: June 10, 2021 4:47 PM
To: Anderson, Steve JERI:EX <Steve.Anderson@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Hamman, Lauren IGRS:EX <Lauren.Hamman@gov.bc.ca>; Longpre, Nicole IGRS:EX <Nicole.Longpre@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Re: quesiton

Silas just called me a little while ago about the bill introduced by Senator Mike Lee from Utah. He has introduced this bill before as well as part of a concerted effort led by the Cato Institute to repeal the Jones Act. I've asked the DC Embassy for their advice.

Haven't heard of any others.

On Jun 10, 2021, at 4:42 PM, Anderson, Steve JERI:EX <Steve.Anderson@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

You watching estimates?

Apparently 3 news bills in senate re: crusise ships and avoiding BC???????

From: Periwal, Sukumar IGRS:EX <Sukumar.Periwal@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: June 10, 2021 4:37 PM
To: Anderson, Steve JERI:EX <Steve.Anderson@gov.bc.ca>; Hamman, Lauren IGRS:EX <Lauren.Hamman@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Re: quesiton

Hi Steve

I would suggest Bobbi connect directly with Silas as he was briefing the Premier on these topics this afternoon. He will have latest direction.

Lauren has been our lead on the file - working with colleagues from across government, including JERI (David Greer, I believe?) to pull together policy options for vaccine certificate use in various contexts.

I don't think we have any specific approved messages on either issue other than what the Premier and Dr Henry have publicly said on the issue. Lauren - please correct me on this?

Thanks
Sukumar

On Jun 10, 2021, at 4:05 PM, Anderson, Steve JERI:EX <Steve.Anderson@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Whoops – and same thing for vaccine passports

From: Anderson, Steve JERI:EX
Sent: June 10, 2021 4:03 PM
To: Periwal, Sukumar IGRS:EX <Sukumar.Periwal@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: quesiton
Importance: High

Do you have any approved messaging that PJH or Silas use re: opening of border with US?

I am just working on a rush doc for Bobbi

Thanks

FW: AK note

From: Brownsey, Silas IGRS:EX <Silas.Brownsey@gov.bc.ca>
To: Plecas, Bobbi JERI:EX <Bobbi.Plecas@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: McConnell, Sheena PREM:EX <Sheena.McConnell@gov.bc.ca>, Basi, Selena JERI:EX <Selena.Basi@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: June 10, 2021 4:54:44 PM PDT
Attachments: 16_Alaska_Relations_SB Approved.docx

Fyi – background. Note has not been updated since yesterday's call with Senator Murkowski.

Minister Fleming has also written to federal transport minister on this.

Today's bill out of Utah was unknown until today, and appears to be part of a larger initiative re: the PVSA / Jones Act, not specifically about cruises.

From: Westgate, Rachael IGRS:EX <Rachael.Westgate@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: June 10, 2021 4:52 PM

To: Brownsey, Silas IGRS:EX <Silas.Brownsey@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: AK note

Rachael Westgate

Manager of Executive Operations

Intergovernmental Relations Secretariat | Office of the Premier

O: 778-974-5461

I respectfully acknowledge the Lekwungen People, known today as the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations, and all the Indigenous Peoples of British Columbia. I am grateful to be able to live, work and play in their territories.

2021/22 Estimates Note - Advice to the Premier

Title: Alaska Relations / Cruise Ships

Issue: Suspension of 2021 Alaskan cruise season

Response:

- The suspension of the 2021 Alaskan cruise season was a decision taken by Transport Canada.
- Provincial ministers are in contact with their federal counterparts on this issue.
- Senior B.C. government officials are in regular contact with counterparts at Global Affairs Canada, who liaise closely with Alaskan legislators.
- As is the case with all border management issues, we must be guided by the advice of public health experts to protect the safety of British Columbians.
- British Columbia is willing to consider technical solutions that would facilitate some resumption of the cruise ship season.
- We look forward to welcoming the world back to British Columbia when it is safe to do so.

Background/Status:

- On February 4, 2021, Transport Canada confirmed that cruise vessels carrying 100 or more passengers would remain prohibited from operating in Canadian waters until February 28, 2022, extending an interim order established in 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The order further stated that ^{Copyright}
- The terms of the U.S. Passenger Vehicle Services Act (PVSA) state that cruise ships that do not operate under a U.S. flag must undertake at least one stop at a foreign port when sailing between domestic ports (i.e. between Seattle and Ketchikan). There is only one U.S.-flagged large cruise ship currently in operation, which serves Hawaii. Foreign-flagged ships serving the Alaskan cruise route stop at Canadian ports (Victoria, Vancouver and Prince Rupert) to satisfy this regulation.
- While both the Jones Act and PVSA regulate the operation of foreign-flagged ships sailing between U.S. ports, only the PVSA applies to cruise ships. The Jones Act applies only to vessels carrying cargo.
- s.16

s.16 On February 12, 2021, the Alaskan Congressional delegation wrote a letter to Prime Minister Trudeau expressing their concerns in relation to the cruise industry and the lack of consultation with Alaskan stakeholders prior to the February 4 announcement.

2021/22 Estimates Note - Advice to the Premier

- Canadian federal leaders including Transport Minister Alghabra and Canadian Ambassador to the U.S. Kirsten Hillman have been in regular contact with members of the Alaskan Congressional delegation. Federal leaders have also taken meetings on the issue with Biden Administration officials, including Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg. These high-level contacts have been supported by engagements with Congressional staff led by the Canadian consulate in Seattle. IGRS liaises with the Seattle consulate on a weekly basis.
- On March 5, 2021 the Alaska federal senators (Lisa Murkowski and Dan Sullivan) introduced the Alaska Tourism Recovery Act. The bill would waive the requirement for foreign-flagged cruise ships to stop at a foreign port for the duration of the pandemic. The Act passed unanimously in the U.S. Senate on May 13, 2021 and was signed by President Biden on May 24.
- On May 5, 2021, CDC released the next two phases of the Framework for Conditional Sailing Order (CSO) for cruise ships operating or seeking to operate in U.S. waters. CDC published technical instructions for cruise ship operators preparing to conduct simulated ("trial") voyages in advance of restricted passenger voyages under a COVID-19 Conditional Sailing Certificate.
- The Premier is scheduled to speak with Alaska's senior U.S. Senator Lisa Murkowski on June 9 to discuss the cruise issue and other bilateral topics of interest.

Contact:

Sukumar Periwal – 250 387-0761

Executive Director, International Relations and Strategic Policy

Re: Cruise ship senate bill

From: Stewart, Courtney GCPE:EX <Courtney.Stewart@gov.bc.ca>
To: Longpre, Nicole IGRS:EX <Nicole.Longpre@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Periwal, Sukumar IGRS:EX <Sukumar.Periwal@gov.bc.ca>, Basi, Selena JERI:EX <Selena.Basi@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: June 10, 2021 5:32:37 PM PDT

That would be great. Thanks so much!

Sent from my iPhone

On Jun 10, 2021, at 4:57 PM, Longpre, Nicole IGRS:EX <Nicole.Longpre@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Hi Courtney,
Sukumar has reached out to the Canadian embassy in D.C. for an assessment, we can report back once we have more information.
Nicole

Sent from my iPhone

On Jun 10, 2021, at 4:55 PM, Stewart, Courtney GCPE:EX <Courtney.Stewart@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Hi Nicole and Sukumar,

A question came up in estimates a little earlier about cruise ships – apparently Americans have put out a new bill making the cruise ship ban permanent. Do you have any lines on this that you can share?

Thanks,

Courtney

<image002.png>
Courtney Stewart

Communications Director | Government Communications and Public Engagement
Ministry of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation
Ph: 778-698-8755 | Cell: 250-920-5104
courtney.stewart@gov.bc.ca

Re: Cruise ship stops

From: Farrance, Melissa TACS:EX <Melissa.Farrance@gov.bc.ca>
To: Meggs, Geoff PREM:EX <Geoff.Meggs@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Mayhew, Neilane TACS:EX <Neilane.Mayhew@gov.bc.ca>, Wanamaker, Lori PREM:EX <Lori.Wanamaker@gov.bc.ca>, Brownsey, Silas IGRS:EX <Silas.Brownsey@gov.bc.ca>, McConnell, Sheena PREM:EX <Sheena.McConnell@gov.bc.ca>, Krishna, Kaye TRAN:EX <Kaye.Krishna@gov.bc.ca>, Harrison, Veronica TRAN:EX <Veronica.Harrison@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: June 10, 2021 5:45:49 PM PDT

We are waiting to hear back from CLIA on availability, but will likely have Minister Fleming join Minister Mark's meeting and move it to Thursday.

-Melissa
Sent from my iPhone

On Jun 10, 2021, at 5:38 PM, Meggs, Geoff PREM:EX <Geoff.Meggs@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Thanks Neilane,
Just spoke to Minister Fleming, who is speaking to Minister Algahbra tomorrow morning. s.13; s.16
s.13; s.16

Geoff
GEOFF MEGGS
Chief of Staff, Premier's Office
West Annex, Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC, V8V 1K7
250 387-1715

From: Mayhew, Neilane TACS:EX <Neilane.Mayhew@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: June 10, 2021 5:29 PM
To: Meggs, Geoff PREM:EX <Geoff.Meggs@gov.bc.ca>; Wanamaker, Lori PREM:EX <Lori.Wanamaker@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Brownsey, Silas IGRS:EX <Silas.Brownsey@gov.bc.ca>; McConnell, Sheena PREM:EX <Sheena.McConnell@gov.bc.ca>; Krishna, Kaye TRAN:EX <Kaye.Krishna@gov.bc.ca>; Farrance, Melissa TACS:EX <Melissa.Farrance@gov.bc.ca>; Harrison, Veronica TRAN:EX <Veronica.Harrison@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Re: Cruise ship stops

Yes. Silas and I have connected and I will set up an internal meeting with Kaye, Don, Silas and myself tomorrow and we will go from there. MMM has a meeting with CLIA on Wednesday next week and TACS can commence discussions with tourism organizations and DBC.

Neilane

Sent from Workspace ONE Boxer

On Jun. 10, 2021 3:30 p.m., "Wanamaker, Lori PREM:EX" <Lori.Wanamaker@gov.bc.ca> wrote:
Neilane - can you please convene a meeting to discuss? Don Z should be invited also. Thanks.
Lori

Sent from my iPhone

On Jun 10, 2021, at 2:36 PM, Meggs, Geoff PREM:EX <Geoff.Meggs@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Lori, the Premier has agreed s.13; s.16
s.13; s.16

Geoff

GEOFF MEGGS

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