

THE GREATER SITKA
Chamber
OF COMMERCE

GREATER SITKA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
RESOLUTION 2012-02
IN OPPOSITION OF INCREASED OR NEW TAXES

WHEREAS, the Greater Sitka Chamber of Commerce mission is to promote, support and facilitate commerce and economic growth in the community; and

WHEREAS, the Greater Sitka Chamber of Commerce supports the development of a comprehensive local tax structure that will improve the economic vitality of Sitka, place Sitka at a competitive advantage and improve the quality of life in our community; and

WHEREAS, with the rapid decline in visitors, the retail trade sector in Sitka has taken a loss of approximately \$25 million in gross revenues from FY2009 to FY2011; and

WHEREAS, with the decline in visitors and retail sales to Sitka, more than five downtown merchants have closed their doors within the last two years and at least three more merchants have announced that they will be closing their doors this year; and

WHEREAS, a growing number of merchants are opening storefronts in other communities while cutting back their employees and hours of operation in Sitka, resulting in dark and empty storefronts thereby impeding the marketability of our community; and

WHEREAS, the decrease in visitors has also dramatically impacted our local businesses that provide onshore excursions, with many of these businesses seeking refuge in other more inviting communities; and

WHEREAS, the loss of these critical onshore excursions further reduces the marketability of our community to the cruise line industry; onshore excursions play a crucial role in attracting the cruise line industry and as such any reduction in the availability of these excursions will only further reduce our community's appeal.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Greater Sitka Chamber of Commerce opposes any tax increases or new taxes at this time as they will only make it more challenging for local businesses to survive in this down economy;

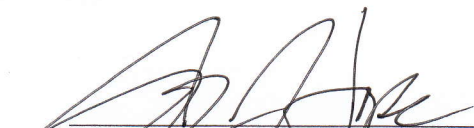
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Greater Sitka Chamber of Commerce supports increased marketing of our community as a visitor destination and increased support for economic development in order to provide long-term, sustainable revenue sources that benefit the community as a whole;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall be effective immediately;

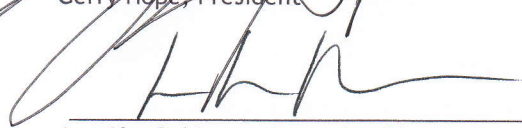
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the officers and agents of the Chamber be and hereby are authorized to take all action necessary to effect the foregoing resolution.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Sitka Chamber of Commerce in accordance with its organic documents at a Meeting of the Sitka Chamber of Commerce held on February 24, 2012 and said resolution appears in the record of said Meeting as set forth above. Dated this 28th day of February, 2012.



Gerry Hope, President



Jennifer Robinson, Executive Director