Comments on Resolution 3051

Date: February 4, 2024
To: Juneau Mayor and Assembly Members
From: Ann Metcalfe

I oppose the motion in Resolution 3051 to petition the state for an additional 20 Restaurant & Eating Place Licenses. It is an overstatement of the need, will damage existing year-round businesses, and fails to account for the existing REPLs that are out there and for sale.

I find it misleading to imply that the 1.6 million visitors to Juneau, the majority of whom visit during two to three summer months, should be completely factored into the population limit of one per 1,500 permanent residents to arrive at a contrived maximum of more than 1,000 licenses. As a local resident who frequents downtown eating and drinking establishments, I can attest that only a fraction of that number of visitors actually go to a restaurant and order a meal. That adventurous minority tends not to tip because so many of the cruises to this town are discounted, the meals on board are free, so the tourists don't feel they need to worry about tipping for a one-time visit. This hurts the employees more than the owners, but it serves to discount the local benefit the cruise ship business provides. We don't really owe those visitors a huge selection of places to eat and get an alcoholic beverage, but we do need to make sure we have a set of healthy businesses that can operate all year long to serve locals and our Legislative part year residents.

As a downtown resident, I feel this is just another move towards the "Disneyfication" of downtown Juneau, which presumably is where the majority of these licenses would locate. In the summer, by my count, there are around 30 establishments where you can get a drink in the small, 3-block radius bordered by 2nd Street, Willoughby, Egan Drive to the Tram, and Franklin Street. Seven of these, again by my count, are seasonal, and the rest are balancing the profits in the summer season against a much leaner winter, even with the Legislature here.

Finally, offering up these new licenses fails to take into consideration the existing licenses in the community that are for sale. Completely eliminating all barriers to entry in an industry is unfair to those who built their businesses under more onerous rules.

Opening up the floodgates to another 20 businesses competing for the same customers, likely on just a seasonal basis, will dilute the revenue stream for all and in particular hurt those businesses who have made the commitment to remain open all year. Given the current permanent population and number of existing businesses, there is not currently a need to petition the state for more licenses.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

Ann Metcalfe
624 6th Street
Juneau, AK

AMCO Received 3/20/2025

February 3, 2024

Dear Juneau Assembly members,

I'm writing against the plan to request additional REPL licenses from AMCO. I feel it is important to consider the impacts on year-round businesses with this decision. Please allow me to explain my concerns and what I feel would be the repercussions of such an action.

The proposal to add 20 licenses would result in practically doubling the current number in Juneau. As with most changes, moderation is the key and historically the number of alcohol-related State licenses are informed by the population size. I think it is important to hear from current license holders about how this abrupt change could affect their business. To date, I don't believe there's been any request by the city to hear from current license holders on this proposal. There are a variety of different license types, but one thing they all have in common is they cost money to purchase and maintain. They have a marketable value that is heavily influenced by the traditional demand vs. availability factor. To suddenly double the number of REPL's available in Juneau will not only negatively impact the existing businesses from a day-to-day customer standpoint but will decrease the value of the investment they made for their licenses. It's essentially akin to printing more money. Initially adding more licenses might seem like a pro-business move by the city, but I think it's important to consider the impacts that will occur to existing businesses.

Another point worth considering is the majority of REPL's will likely go to seasonal businesses who basically only operate and employ during the tourist season. Certainly, their sales of beer and wine will cut into the sales that could come to the businesses who employ and operate year-round. Has the importance and value of these establishments been factored into the equation by the city? Adding such a large number of licenses undermines the stability of these businesses and only increases the pressure for them to continue operating and keep employees on the payroll during the lean months. This increase would shift emphasis by the city to low-entry investments that high-grade from the tourist influx and offer low-yield returns. In short, how does this help Juneau's year-round businesses? These are the places that offer long-term investment into Juneau, employing people with families with kids who attend school, buy season passes at Eaglecrest, participate in community events in the off-season, etc, etc. These businesses are also the places that invest in their infrastructure such as bathrooms made available to the public, whether they are paying customers or not. This can be a real burden considering the city continues to struggle with providing and maintaining their own bathrooms for public use.

The creation of additional licenses incrementally devalues the variety of existing licenses. Who's going to purchase a $50,000 beer and wine license (this is a ball park of what REPL have sold for in the past) and wait six months for a paperwork transfer when they can just come to the city and request a new one for practically free? The city is basically competing against the free market by being the "owner" and distributor of these new licenses which is not considered fair practice. This directly affects existing license holders in a negative way which I strongly encourage the city to factor into their decision before they make a request to AMCO.

AMCO Received 3/20/2025

In summary, I don't feel the seasonal benefactors from the creation of more REPL's will contribute to the long-term investment in Juneau the way my year-round business does. I work hard to offer stable employment and keep my doors open all 12 months, year after year. It is not that easy and more REPL's will make it more difficult for me to achieve this objective. To truly invest in Juneau's future and economic stability, the city should be looking at the year-round impact of its decision to request more licenses.

Thank you for your careful consideration of this matter.

Leeann Thomas

Leeann Thomas

Owner- Triangle Club Bar Inc.

AMCO Received 3/20/2025

18005 Point Stephens Rd
Juneau, AK 99801
November 14, 2024

City and Borough Assembly
155 Heritage Way
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Mayor Weldon and Assembly Members,

Thank you for your service and for your leadership on behalf of Juneau. I appreciate your commitment and efforts to make Juneau a vital community. I'm writing to support the resolution to add Restaurant or Eating Place Licenses (REPL) to Juneau because I think it is one step in making Juneau a vital community.

I am in favor of local control so think that it is fitting that local communities can now make the decision on the number of licenses that are authorized in their community. I think it is proactive of the Assembly Human Resource Committee to recommend that the Assembly use this opportunity to exert local control as Valdez and Wasilla have done.

Juneau's declining population and particularly the decrease in younger generations is concerning to me. I would like Juneau to be an attractive place to live with the amenities of Anchorage or communities in the Lower 48. As I watched the use of the seasonal REPL's this summer I was struck with how their use enhanced the experience for tourists but also for Juneauites. Being able to go out to dinner, in all seasons, in restaurants where you can have wine or beer with your meal and enjoy entertainment is an expected amenity and one that Millennials shouldn't have to strategize their eating venue here or leave Juneau to enjoy. Juneau prides itself in being an arts community. We need more venues for those artists to perform in.

Please vote in favor of adding additional twenty REPLs to Juneau.

Sincerely,

Peggy Cowan

AMCO Received 3/20/2025

JUNEAU Arts & Humanities COUNCIL

The City and Borough of Juneau Assembly
155 Heritage Way
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Assembly Members,

I am writing to express my strong support for the resolution to add 20 additional Restaurant Eating Place Licenses (REPL) to Juneau.

In recent years, we have witnessed the vibrant growth and development of our arts community in collaboration with small breweries, distilleries, and restaurants such as Devil's Club Brewing and Amalga Distillery. These businesses, despite the many regulations and operating limitations stacked against them, have carved out new spaces in Juneau to celebrate arts, culture, and enable opportunities for creative growth for many of Juneau's independent artists. Alleviating constraints for other businesses to make similar considerations through obtaining REPLs will create much positive impact in the arts sector of Juneau's economy.

Juneau's bar & restaurant industry plays a crucial role in fostering local arts experiences. With the historically limited number of REPLs in Juneau, creating attractive after-business-hours events has been an increasing struggle. Enabling more opportunity for young business owners to think creatively about what kind of entertainment opportunities they're able to offer in their storefronts will pave the way for increased economic success and greater cultural richness in the future.

By increasing the availability of REPLs, we can encourage entrepreneurship, create more platforms for artists, experiment with collaborative entertainment experiences, and push the boundaries of what we as a city are able to offer new residents and seasonal visitors.

I understand the importance of responsible city policy planning, and I trust the Assembly will carefully consider the potential benefits of increasing the number of available REPLs for Juneau businesses to utilize. This consideration will be a key factor in ensuring our city remains a desirable place to live, work, and visit.

Thank you for your dedication to the well-being of Juneau. I urge you to adopt the resulution to add additional REPLs and contribute to the continued prosperity of our community.

Sincerely,

Phil Huebschen
Executive Director
Juneau Arts & Humanities Council

AMCO Received 3/20/2025

From:	Ann Metcalfe
To:	Borough Assembly
Subject:	Comments on Resolution 3051
Date:	Sunday, February 4, 2024 2:56:34 PM
Attachments:	Comments on Res 3051.pdf

Following and attached are my comments for the Assembly's consideration regarding the proposal to petition the state for 20 additional REPLs.

To: CBJ Mayor and Assembly

I oppose the motion in Resolution 3051 to petition the state for an additional 20 Restaurant & Eating Place Licenses. It is an overstatement of the need, will damage existing year-round businesses, and fails to account for the existing REPLs that are out there and for sale.

I find it misleading to imply that the 1.6 million visitors to Juneau, the majority of whom visit during two or three summer months, should be completely factored into the population limit of one per 1,500 permanent residents to arrive at a contrived maximum of more than 1,000 licenses. As a local resident who frequents downtown eating and drinking establishments, I can attest that only a fraction of that number of visitors actually go to a restaurant and order a meal. That adventurous minority tends not to tip because so many of the cruises to this town are discounted, the meals on board are free, so the tourists don't feel they need to worry about tipping for a one-time visit. This hurts the employees more than the owners, but it serves to discount the local benefit the cruise ship business provides. We don't really owe those visitors a huge selection of places to eat and get an alcoholic beverage, but we do need to make sure we have a set of healthy businesses that can operate all year long to serve locals and our Legislative part year residents.

As a downtown resident, I feel this is just another move towards the "Disneyfication" of downtown Juneau, which presumably is where the majority of these licenses would locate. In the summer, by my count, there are around 30 establishments where you can get a drink in the small, 3-block radius bordered by 2nd Street, Willoughby, Egan Drive to the Tram, and Franklin Street. Seven of these, again by my count, are seasonal, and the rest are balancing the profits in the summer season against a much leaner winter, even with the Legislature here.

Finally, offering up these new licenses fails to take into consideration the existing licenses in the community that are for sale. Completely eliminating all barriers to entry in an industry is unfair to those who built their businesses under more onerous rules.

Opening up the floodgates to another 20 businesses competing for the same customers, likely on just a seasonal basis, will dilute the revenue stream for all and in particular hurt those businesses who have made the commitment to remain open all year. Given the current permanent population and number of existing businesses, there is not currently a need to petition the state for more licenses.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

Ann Metcalfe
624 6th Street
Juneau, AK

AMCO Received 3/20/2025

AMCO Received 3/20/2025

From: Annie Calkins
To: Borough Assembly
Subject: REPL testimony
Date: Sunday, November 17, 2024 4:33:05 PM

EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

>
> Dear Assembly,
>
> We are writing to support, in the strongest possible terms, adding additional Restaurants or Eating Place Licenses to Juneau. We have seen how places like Devil's Club Brewing Company, Forbidden Peaks, and the Amalga Distillery have become essential gathering places, appealing largely to younger members of the adult community, adding much-needed new life and vigor to the town. Juneau is in danger of becoming a kind of "Pottersville" (as in "It's a Wonderful Life") in the winter time, and we need as many gathering places as we can have. We've not noticed any spike in alcohol-related crimes since these innovative places opened, and we feel it is important to support these fledgling and creative efforts at breathing new life into our city.
>
> Expanding the use of such places opens up exciting new venues for the many musicians who need places to play, and their friends and supporters who want to hear them. We've seen how they have become vital gallery spaces for artists as well, and would love to support them in this.
>
> It just seems like a good idea.
>
> Thank you,
>
> Dave Hunsaker
> Annie Calkins
> (907) 789-3486

AMCO Received 3/20/2025

From: Brittney Do
To: Borough Assembly
Cc: Evan Wood
Subject: Letter to Assembly for Testimony of Beer and Wine Licenses
Date: Sunday, November 17, 2024 4:54:57 PM

EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

Dear Esteemed Members of the Assembly,

I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to request your consideration and support in approving beer and wine licenses for all businesses within our community. The approval of such licenses would provide a significant benefit to local businesses, boost the local economy, and enhance the variety of services available to our residents and visitors.

First, allowing all businesses the opportunity to apply for beer and wine licenses would offer a wider range of dining and social options, enriching the overall experience for both locals and tourists. By supporting a more vibrant, diverse business environment, we create a thriving community that attracts visitors and enhances the economic vitality of our area.

Furthermore, this measure could lead to increased revenues for both businesses and the municipality. Local establishments such as restaurants, cafes, and specialty shops would have the chance to expand their offerings, potentially increasing foot traffic, customer satisfaction, and sales. In turn, this could help create more jobs, foster entrepreneurship, and provide an overall boost to our local economy.

Additionally, this initiative could help level the playing field by allowing all businesses, regardless of their size or type, to access the same opportunities. Currently, some businesses may be restricted in their ability to offer these products, which can hinder their competitiveness. A fair and equitable licensing process would empower all businesses to thrive.

I understand that there are regulatory considerations surrounding the sale of alcohol, and I trust that the assembly will take appropriate steps to ensure responsible distribution and consumption. Measures such as proper training, monitoring, and community outreach will be essential to maintaining public safety and supporting responsible business practices.

I am also writing to propose an exciting new addition to my small business in Downtown, Concept Cafe - the introduction of a soju cocktail menu and bar. This innovative offering would complement our current cafe services and bring a unique and culturally enriching experience to both our regular guests and new guests alike.

Soju, a traditional Korean distilled spirit, has gained increasing popularity worldwide due to its versatility and smooth taste, making it a perfect base for creative cocktails. By offering soju-based drinks in a cafe setting, we aim to provide a fun, relaxed environment where customers can enjoy an exciting and new beverage option in a familiar space.

I respectfully urge you to approve and support the expansion of beer and wine licenses for all businesses in our area. By doing so, you will help strengthen our community, create new

AMCO Received 3/20/2025

opportunities for growth, and ensure that our local economy continues to thrive.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to your positive response and to working together to make this vision a reality.

Sincerely,
Brittney Do
Owner of Concept Cafe

AMCO Received 3/20/2025

From: Christine Southall
To: Borough Assembly
Subject: REPLs Support
Date: Sunday, November 17, 2024 4:05:08 AM

EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

Good Morning,

I am writing in support of adding more REPLs to the City and Borough of Juneau.

As a member of the service industry I believe these new license would open new opportunities for Economic Development in our community by local members of our community.

Beer and Wine is a great way to grow revenue for unique business ventures, especially in the summer. It would allow younger members of the community like myself to feel more comfortable starting a new business venture knowing there is a tried and true way to make income outside of the main business venture.

This monetary security would allow more niche Alaskan Business Ventures from us unique Alaskan here in Juneau.

Tourism is growing at an extreme rate and even if we can't always agree on the limits to tourism these new REPLs would put these new economic opportunities into the hand of Juneauites. We would be able to keep our small tight community vibe in our businesses while offering unique opportunities for our fellow community members and guests.

Please agree to add these REPLs. It is good for Juneau's visitors, community members , and overall economic growth.

Thank you for your time,

Christine Southall
csouthall7@gmail.com
224-567-2571

AMCO Received 3/20/2025

From: Christine Southall
To: Borough Assembly
Cc: Evan Wood
Subject: REPLs Support
Date: Sunday, February 4, 2024 9:20:42 PM

Good Evening,

I am writing in support of adding more REPLs to the City and Borough of Juneau.

As a member of the service industry I believe these new license would open new opportunities for Economic Development in our community by local members of our community.

Beer and Wine is a great way to grow revenue for unique business ventures, especially in the summer. It would allow younger members of the community like myself to feel more comfortable starting a new business venture knowing there is a tried and true way to make income outside of the main business venture.

This monetary security would allow more niche Alaskan Business Ventures from us unique Alaskan here in Juneau.

Tourism is growing at an extreme rate and even if we can't always agree on the limits to tourism these new REPLs would put these new economic opportunities into the hand of Juneauites. We would be able to keep our small tight community vibe in our businesses while offering unique opportunities for our fellow community members and guests.

Please agree to add these REPLs. It is good for Juneau's visitors, community members , and overall economic growth.

Thank you for your time,

Christine Southall
csouthall7@gmail.com
224-567-2571

AMCO Received 3/20/2025

From: Dave Hunsaker
To: Borough Assembly
Subject: REPLs
Date: Monday, February 5, 2024 4:31:57 PM

Dear Assembly,

I am writing to voice my strong support for adding additional REPLs to Juneau. We have seen how popular our local distillery and brew pubs have become and how they show a huge uptick in youthful innovation in our town. We could use more venues not just for alcohol but for food and entertainment. I think it is time to broaden the competition.

thank you for all you do.

best,

Dave Hunsaker
20139 Cohen Dr
Juneau 99801

land line: (907) 789-3486
mobile: (310) 625-8232

AMCO Received 3/20/2025

From: Drake Skaggs
To: Borough Assembly
Subject: In support of additional REPLs
Date: Thursday, November 14, 2024 12:13:50 PM

EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

Dear Members of the Juneau Borough Assembly,

I'm writing to voice my strong support for the resolution to add more Restaurant and Eating Place Licenses in Juneau. Right now, the limited number of liquor licenses allows a small group of holders to dominate the market, creating an unfair barrier for other venues. Granting additional licenses will create opportunities for new and existing restaurants, encouraging fair competition and helping these businesses grow. This boost will not only bring more customers to our local eateries but will also create new opportunities for arts venues, enhancing our community's vibrant culture.

More licenses mean a stronger local economy, more job opportunities, and a richer, more diverse dining and entertainment scene for everyone to enjoy. Please consider approving this resolution to help our community thrive.

Thank you for your attention and commitment to Juneau's growth.

Sincerely,
Drake Skaggs
5525 N Douglas Hwy
Juneau, AK 99801

AMCO Received 3/20/2025

From: dp
To: Borough Assembly
Subject: Fwd: More REPLs please!
Date: Wednesday, January 31, 2024 1:33:20 PM

Sorry, I meant to cc the assembly on my response below…

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **dp** <dylfoot@gmail.com>
Date: Wed, Jan 31, 2024 at 1:29 PM
Subject: Re: More REPLs please!
To: Michelle Hale <Michelle.Hale@juneau.gov>

Hey Michelle,

Wow, thank you for the response! However, it's hard for me to justify that as a viable reason to reduce future opportunities. The people that have held REPLs have done so in a limited market and were able to reap the benefits, for years in some cases, of having something that others were not eligible to have. I don't know who the loudest opponents are, but I would guess that they're the people who have held REPLs for many, many years.

Respectfully,
Dylan Proudfoot

On Wed, Jan 31, 2024 at 10:02 AM Michelle Hale <Michelle.Hale@juneau.gov> wrote:

> Thank you for writing, Dylan. I do like the idea of more economic opportunity, particularly with these young entrepreneurs starting businesses! One concern that I have is that of a level playing field. If we add more REPLs, what about those who have paid dearly in the past for the ones that they have? I'm grappling with this while at the same time do want to open things up more.
>
> Thanks again,
> Michelle
>
> ---
>
> **From:** dp <dylfoot@gmail.com>
> **Sent:** Tuesday, January 30, 2024 9:05 PM
> **To:** Borough Assembly <BoroughAssembly@juneau.gov>
> **Subject:** More REPLs please!
>
> Hello Assembly,
>
> I would like to show my support for more REPLs. I think it would create opportunities for local business owners and entrepreneurs, and foster net positive economic activity across our communities.
>
> Thank you,
> Dylan Proudfoot

AMCO Received 3/20/2025

805 Goldbelt Ave
Juneau, AK 99801

AMCO Received 3/20/2025

From: Judith Ament
To: Borough Assembly
Subject: "YES" on new REPLs!
Date: Thursday, November 14, 2024 5:52:35 PM

EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

Hi!

Just writing in my support for the additional Restaurant and Eating Place Licences.

Juneau should not be a closed market for any type of business. Young entrepreneurs need to have a way of starting new businesses and Alaska should be "open for business"! No business should be protected from competition by government. Please enable new businesses to open and allow Juneau to innovate and thrive.

Trusting you will do what's best for Juneau, not what's best for the established.

Thanks!

Judith Ament

AMCO Received 3/20/2025

From: Julius Adolfsson
To: Borough Assembly
Subject: Letter of Support for the additional REPLs
Date: Sunday, February 4, 2024 9:20:45 PM

Dear Assembly,

I am writing this letter in support of adding additional REPL's to our communities. More REPLs means stronger existing businesses in our community and an evened playing field for new entrants. For consumers, more licenses will bring more competition creating better products and services.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best,
Julius Adolfsson
907-500-5957

AMCO Received 3/20/2025

From: BuyAlaska
To: Borough Assembly
Subject: Economic Benefits of Additional Restaurant Eating Place Licenses (REPLs) in Juneau
Date: Tuesday, January 30, 2024 2:36:05 PM

Dear Members of the Juneau Assembly,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing on behalf of the BuyAlaska Program, a dedicated initiative under the Alaska Small Business Development Center that supports the development of small businesses throughout the state.

I am writing to shed light on the economic benefits and value of additional Restaurant Eating Place Licenses (REPLs). Increasing the number of REPLs offers more opportunities to stimulate economic growth, create jobs, and enhance the overall vibrancy and economic landscape.

- More REPLs mean new jobs in the local restaurant industry, boosting employment opportunities as businesses expand.
- Lower barriers will encourage new restaurant ventures, contributing to local diversity and innovation.
- Additional REPLs strengthen businesses, significantly boosting local economic contributions through increased patronage.
- Added REPLs offer new venues for local artists, enhancing cultural vibrancy within our community.
- A higher number of licenses drive healthy competition, leading to improved products, services, and consumer experiences.

We share this information with the goal of building a strong, resilient local economy. Our research on the retention of dollars locally shows that even a small change in consumer spending at locally-owned businesses greatly impacts the local economy.

If you require further details or have any questions, please feel free to reach out. Thank you for your time and commitment to our community's economic prosperity!

Sincerely,
Katie Nave

Katie Nave, MBA
BuyAlaska Program Director,
Alaska Small Business Development Center
T: 907-786-7246
W: buyalaska.com | aksbdc.org

W: https://buyalaska.com/ **E:** buyalaska@aksbdc.org
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AMCO Received 3/20/2025

From: Kim Metcalfe
To: Borough Assembly; Beth McEwen
Subject: Objection to Issuance of New REPL Licenses
Date: Sunday, February 4, 2024 5:10:24 PM

February 4, 2024

Dear Mayor Weldon and Members of the Assembly:

I am writing to oppose City and Borough of Juneau Resolution 3501, petitioning the State of Alaska to grant it 20 new Restaurant and Eating Place Licenses (REPLs). I see no need for a community the size of Juneau to receive 20 new liquor licenses when there are 7 REPL licenses currently on the market or that are currently going unused. It is my further understanding that these new licenses will be issued for free. Why buy an existing license that's for sale when you can get one for free?

Who are these licenses going to be issued to? Why is there a need? Who is pushing for more REPLs? Are there 20 new restaurants and eating places envisioned in the coming years? If so, I think it would be in the community's best interest to know more about this large increase. The owners of local restaurants and eating places would surely be interested to know whether there is increased competition on the horizon.

And if you're using the 1.6 million cruise ship visitors as population figures to justify more liquor licenses, perhaps the CBJ should be applying for more federal and state funding for various construction and social needs based on this huge population increase.

I do recall many years ago Juneau residents took an idea to the Assembly to seek funding for light rail from downtown to the Valley. Senator Ted Stevens represented Alaska in those days and could well have delivered funding for such a project. The argument from residents (I believe put forward by the visionary Bill Leighty), was based on the increased population during the summer. Juneau had a population of about 20,000 in those days, and the argument for funding light rail was that we really had a much larger population when one considered the number of tourists during the summer. The idea was quickly shot down because of pressure from the cruise industry. It captured (and still captures) so much more spending from tourists by immediately delivering them from their ships to buses going to shore-based excursions that pay a kickback to the industry. The Assembly's conclusion in those days was that the seasonal population increase was just that, seasonal, and didn't count towards Juneau's permanent population.

As I read it, the CBJ can petition for these licenses at a later date. This is not a one-time opportunity. Please vote no on this petition and show your support for existing local businesses that are still digging out from the pandemic.

AMCO Received 3/20/2025

Kimberly Metcalfe
730 Gold Street
Juneau, Alaska 99801

AMCO Received 3/20/2025

From: Laura Steele
To: Borough Assembly
Subject: Support for REPL Resolution
Date: Tuesday, January 30, 2024 8:36:03 AM

EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

Assembly Members and Mayor Weldon:

I am writing in support of the resolution to increase Juneau's Restaurant Eating Place Licenses (REPLs). Encouraging the economic development boon of young, thriving new businesses and the draw for tourists and locals alike to keep their dollars local should be a top priority for the assembly. Allowing for more REPLs will help existing restaurants expand their footprint and significantly lower the startup costs for new restaurants hoping to attract patrons by serving beer and wine. It will also widen the options for those like myself who like to enjoy a beer with a meal, but feel limited at times by our options to do so - especially during long, dark winter hours that feel like they last forever.

Please join me in support of this resolution. I appreciate your time and attention to this matter.

Thank you,
Laura Steele
1650 Fritz Cove Road
Juneau, AK 99801

AMCO Received 3/20/2025

From: Leeann Thomas
To: Borough Assembly
Subject: Comments on Resolution for 20 REPLs
Date: Saturday, February 3, 2024 10:01:38 PM
Attachments: City Assembly_against20REPL.pdf

February 3, 2024

Dear Juneau Assembly members,

I'm writing against the plan to request additional REPL licenses from AMCO. I feel it is important to consider the impacts on year-round businesses with this decision. Please allow me to explain my concerns and what I feel would be the repercussions of such an action.

The proposal to add 20 licenses would result in practically doubling the current number in Juneau. As with most changes, moderation is the key and historically the number of alcohol-related State licenses are informed by the population size. I think it is important to hear from current license holders about how this abrupt change could affect their business. To date, I don't believe there's been any request by the city to hear from current license holders on this proposal. There are a variety of different license types, but one thing they all have in common is they cost money to purchase and maintain. They have a marketable value that is heavily influenced by the traditional demand vs. availability factor. To suddenly double the number of REPL's available in Juneau will not only negatively impact the existing businesses from a day-to-day customer standpoint but will decrease the value of the investment they made for their licenses. It's essentially akin to printing more money. Initially adding more licenses might seem like a pro-business move by the city, but I think it's important to consider the impacts that will occur to existing businesses.

Another point worth considering is the majority of REPL's will likely go to seasonal businesses who basically only operate and employ during the tourist season. Certainly, their sales of beer and wine will cut into the sales that could come to the businesses who employ and operate year-round. Has the importance and value of these establishments been factored into the equation by the city? Adding such a large number of licenses undermines the stability of these businesses and only increases the pressure for them to continue operating and keep employees on the payroll during the lean months. This increase would shift emphasis by the city to low-entry investments that high-grade from the tourist influx and offer low-yield returns. In short, how does this help Juneau's year-round businesses? These are the places that offer long-term investment into Juneau, employing people with families with kids who attend school, buy season passes at Eaglecrest, participate in community events in the off-season, etc, etc. These businesses are also the places that invest in their infrastructure such as bathrooms made available to the public, whether they are paying customers or not. This can be a real burden considering the city continues to struggle with providing and maintaining their own bathrooms for public use.

The creation of additional licenses incrementally devalues the variety of existing licenses. Who's going to purchase a $50,000 beer and wine license (this is a ball park of what REPL have sold for in the past) and wait six months for a paperwork transfer when they can just come to the city and

AMCO Received 3/20/2025

request a new one for practically free? The city is basically competing against the free market by being the “owner” and distributor of these new licenses which is not considered fair practice. This directly affects existing license holders in a negative way which I strongly encourage the city to factor into their decision before they make a request to AMCO.

In summary, I don’t feel the seasonal benefactors from the creation of more REPL’s will contribute to the long-term investment in Juneau the way my year-round business does. I work hard to offer stable employment and keep my doors open all 12 months, year after year. It is not that easy and more REPL’s will make it more difficult for me to achieve this objective. To truly invest in Juneau’s future and economic stability, the city should be looking at the year-round impact of its decision to request more licenses.

Thank you for your careful consideration of this matter.

Leeann Thomas
Triangle Club Bar
907-209-5656

AMCO Received 3/20/2025

From: Luann McVey
To: Borough Assembly
Subject: Restaurant/Eating Place Licenses
Date: Monday, November 18, 2024 10:35:10 AM

EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

Dear friends on the Juneau Assembly,

Thank you for the time and energy you regularly invest in our community.

I'm writing to urge you to allow additional beer and wine licenses in Juneau. In October, voters decided to allow cruise ships to dock in our town seven days a week. We expect an additional increase in tourist traffic due to the construction of a new port on the back side of Douglas Island. Given this anticipated increase in tourism, Juneau needs to provide the commercial infrastructure to support additional visitors to our town. This should include new restaurants and other small businesses that cater to the burgeoning tourist industry.

Locals also benefit from the opportunity for new restaurants that offer beer and wine. When my husband and I go out to eat, we tend to frequent places that offer alcoholic beverages even though we seldom order them. It is attractive to have the option. Restaurants that offer this option tend to fare better in competition with those that do not.

Please support additional Restaurant/Eating Place Licenses in Juneau.

Thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Luann McVey
Retired Juneau Teacher
1507 Second Street
Douglas, Alaska. 99824

AMCO Received 3/20/2025

From: Pat Race
To: Borough Assembly
Subject: REPL Support
Date: Monday, January 29, 2024 4:29:12 PM

Hi, I'm writing in support of more Restaurant Eating Place Licenses (REPL) to Juneau.

Alaska has a huge struggle with alcoholism but I don't think increasing REPLs will have a significant negative impact to our community.

Where limited REPLs do have an impact in facilitating an environment of regulatory protection which limits competition from younger and emerging entrepreneurs. Expanding the number of REPLs would make a more even playing field for businesses and provide more opportunity for hard working small business owners trying to establish a foothold.

Thank you,
Pat Race

AMCO Received 3/20/2025

From: peggycowan@mac.com
To: Borough Assembly
Subject: Support for REPL"s on November 18 Agenda
Date: Friday, November 15, 2024 2:24:50 PM
Attachments: REPL Support Nov 2024.pdf

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Please see attached letter of support for the Resolution on REPL's.

Thank you

AMCO Received 3/20/2025

From: Peter Nave
To: Borough Assembly
Subject: Additional REPLs
Date: Friday, November 15, 2024 10:01:44 AM

EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

Hello Juneau Assembly,
I am writing in support of the creation of additional REPLs in Juneau. As Juneauites, new licenses will encourage new business, strengthen business for existing restaurants, and foster positive competition. This is a win for a vibrant Juneau!

I am excited about the new centers of community and culture that are created because of this business opportunity.

Thanks for your time,
Peter Nave
Juneau, AK

AMCO Received 3/20/2025

From: Peter Nave
To: Borough Assembly
Subject: Support for REPL Resolution
Date: Tuesday, January 30, 2024 9:20:29 AM

Hello CBJ,
I'm wiring in support of the resolution to ask the state for 20 additional REPLs for our community. I believe this makes good sense for local businesses.

Thank you for your time,
Peter Nave

2410 Radcliffe Rd.
Juneau, AK 99801

AMCO Received 3/20/2025

From:	Phil Huebschen
To:	Borough Assembly
Subject:	REPL Letter of Support - Juneau Arts & Humanities Council
Date:	Wednesday, January 31, 2024 2:17:40 PM
Attachments:	JAHC Letter of Support - REPL.pdf

Dear CBJ Assembly,

Please see attached for a letter from the Juneau Arts & Humanities Council in support of the resolution to adopt 20 additional Restaurant Eating Place Licenses.

Thank you,

--
Phil Huebschen (he/she/they)
Executive Director
Juneau Arts & Humanities Council
350 Whittier St
Juneau, AK 99801
phil@jahc.org

AMCO Received 3/20/2025

From: Meredith Thatcher
Subject: PSA: November 18 Assembly Meeting Agenda Includes Flood Zone LID, REPL Liquor Licenses
Date: Friday, November 15, 2024 2:40:07 PM
Attachments: 2024.11.15 November 18 Assembly Meeting Agenda Includes Flood Zone LID, REPL Liquor Licenses.pdf

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CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU
ALASKA'S CAPITAL CITY
155 Heritage Way • Juneau, Alaska 99801 • 907-586-5240

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT
November 15, 2024

November 18 Assembly Meeting Agenda Includes Flood Zone LID, REPL Liquor Licenses

The Regular Assembly Meeting on Monday, November 18, will include discussion of two items the community has expressed special interest in: a possible Local Improvement District (LID) for the proposed HESCO barrier flood mitigation project, and a request for the State to issue additional restaurant/eating place licenses for Juneau.

The meeting will be held at 7 p.m. in person in the City Hall Assembly Chambers and remotely via Zoom. It will also be livestreamed on CBJ's YouTube channel at bit.ly/cbjstream.

Zoom link: https://juneau.zoom.us/j/91515424903
Dial-in: 1-253-215-8782
Webinar ID: 915 1542 4903

Find the full agenda packet at https://juneau-ak.municodemeetings.com/bc-assembly/page/regular-assembly-meeting-2024-25.

The LID is agenda item D-4: *Introduction of Ordinance 2024-40 An Ordinance Creating a Local Improvement District No. 210 HESCO Barrier Project Phase 1 and Appropriating the Sum of up to $7,580,000.*

This item is on the agenda as a special order of business. The proposed ordinance will be presented before the Assembly, who will choose whether or not to take further action. If the Assembly chooses to pursue the ordinance, a full public process will begin and public hearings will be scheduled in (likely) December and February.

REPL licenses are agenda item M-17: *Resolution 3051: A Resolution Petitioning the Alaska State Alcoholic Beverage Control Board to Issue up to 20 Additional Restaurant or Eating Place Licenses within the City and Borough of Juneau Under Alaska Statute 04.11.405.*

AMCO Received 3/20/2025

This is ordinance is on the agenda for public testimony and Assembly action. You can provide testimony during the meeting by attending in person or by contacting the Clerk's Office at 907-586-5278 by 4 p.m. Monday to testify over Zoom. You can also submit your comments in writing to boroughassembly@juneau.gov.

For the complete CBJ public meeting calendar, see juneau.org/calendar.

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Meredith Thatcher
Public Information Officer
City & Borough of Juneau
Office: (907) 586-5374 / Cell: (907) 419-7511

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AMCO Received 3/20/2025

From: Integrity Automotive
To: Borough Assembly
Cc: shayla weeks kaiser
Subject: Opposition to Resolution 3051
Date: Sunday, February 4, 2024 7:11:05 PM

Dear Juneau Assembly Members,

We are writing to ask that you do not adopt Resolution 3051 petitioning the Alaska State Alcohol Control Board for additional Restaurant or Eating Place Licenses (REPLs) in Juneau. While we understand being interested in enhancing the economy we'd like to touch on a few questions we have and some factors to consider. Applying rules and regulations consistently should be a top priority; won't a move like this destroy the value of the licenses held by those who have paid their dues and played by the rules? In addition, creating jobs is listed as a primary objective but looking around town it's clear many businesses are struggling to find employees. Who will fill these jobs? It's also come to our attention that there are likely a number of REPLs that are unused at this time and even some for sale. Why shouldn't a new restaurant be expected to enter the market the same way their competitors did? Adopting Resolution 3051 isn't the right move for Juneau, please don't proceed with this.

Thank you for your consideration,

Ray & Shayla Kaiser
Squirez Bar
Integrity Automotive

AMCO Received 3/20/2025

From: Reecia Wilson
To: Borough Assembly
Subject: Opposition to 20 new REPLs Resolution 3051
Date: Monday, February 5, 2024 8:08:09 AM

Please consider most year-round restaurant operators do not have a lot of desk time to follow city resolutions. CHARR just emailed industry members last Friday, not giving much time for stakeholders or industry members to react to the idea of adding 20 new REPLs to our community. I just learned yesterday that there is an actual vote on it tonight.

I thank those operators who took the time to write letters, make phone calls and voice all the unintended consequences and long-term economic impacts. I support Jared Curé's letter 100%. I hope all the facts, math and other impacts of adding 20 new beer & wine licenses gets the time and attention it deserves in this process.

I would suggest adding 20 new beer and wine licenses on top of the existing 23 licenses (of which 7 are not being used) would be a negative market manipulator for the next 25 years or more.

The pie is not and will not get bigger by adding 20 new licenses. There is a very real economic and financial reason why only 1 of my 5 restaurants is open year-round. It's simple and has not changed in 28 years; Juneau's population and dining out habits do not support all the extra seats in the Fall, Winter & Spring.

Thank you in advance for at the very least stalling this action item on tonight's Agenda to revisit why and for what purpose there is to add 20 new REPLs to our community.

Reecia Wilson
Owner
Hangar on the Wharf
Roma Bistro on the Wharf
Alaska Fish & Chips @ Flight Deck
Twisted Fish Co.
Alaskan Brewing Co. Public House

Sent from my iPad

AMCO Received 3/20/2025

From:	Richard Steele
To:	Borough Assembly
Subject:	Adding beer and wine licenses
Date:	Thursday, November 14, 2024 8:19:28 PM
Attachments:	Richard Signature.tiff

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1507 2nd St.
Douglas. AK 99924-5210
steeler@me.com
Nov. 14, 2024

City and Borough of Juneau
155 Heritage Way
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Friends,

I first moved to Southeast in 1979, and to Juneau in 1981. I met and married my wife, Luann McVey (a local girl) and both our girls married local boys and our three (soon to be four) grandchildren are growing up here. I completed a career in education (SERRC and the Juneau School District) and retired to Douglas. My in-laws are in the Pioneers' Home now, and we regularly visit them there.

I have invested in several local businesses, including Devil's Club Brewing Company, which has expanded to meet the burgeoning tourist and local trade. To meet that increase in commerce, I ask that you vote TO ADD additional beer and wine licenses to our community (Restaurant or Eating Place Licenses).

Additional REPLs are good for commerce. They're good for competition. The resolution will remove barriers of entry. It will provide more opportunities for young and/or prospective business owners. It will allow existing restaurants to realize more business and attract new customers. It will allow the creation of new arts venues. It's good for Juneau!

Sincerely,

Richard A. Steele
(907) 957-2442

AMCO Received 3/20/2025

AMCO Received 3/20/2025

From: Richard Wood
To: Borough Assembly
Subject: Re: Restaurant Eating Place Licenses
Date: Friday, February 2, 2024 11:06:28 AM

Dear Assembly Members:

Thank you for your leadership. I am writing in support of adding twenty additional Restaurant Eating Place Licenses to Juneau.

Voting in favor of this resolution will be good for Juneau locals, both businesses and consumers. More licenses will create more competition and more competition is good for the consumer. Adding more licenses will help businesses be profitable and provide more choice to Juneau residents when choosing a restaurant. I also think that this will allow more year round businesses to serve locals when the tourists leave.

I encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity for municipalities to decide what is best for their community. Please vote in favor of the resolution to add 20 additional REPLs to Juneau.

Sincerely,
Richard Wood
PO Box 210492
Juneau, AK 99821

AMCO Received 3/20/2025

From: Venietia "V" Bingham, V"s Cellar Door
To: Borough Assembly
Subject: Round Table meetings about REPL
Date: Tuesday, February 13, 2024 10:46:18 AM

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Madam Mayor and Juneau Assembly Members,

Thank you for tabling the REPL vote until November. I believe this will give us all time to do the research needed to make a educated decision on REPLS and the impact it will have on our local business owners and future Entrepreneurs. I would like to propose to create a round table of sorts to gather some of the REPL owners and some assembly members to come together for a few meetings to work on the issues, impacts and to possibly come up with a suggestion/compromise to bring to the Assembly in November.

I can bring together some owners if the Assembly can commit some assembly members to meet at designated times/places to have discussions. I believe if we work together as a community, we all can come up with something that can be beneficial to all.

--
Warmly,

Venietia "V" Bingham
V's Cellar Door
222 Seward Street
Juneau, Ak 99801
(907) 586-6870 restaurant
(907) 723-2762 cell

AMCO Received 3/20/2025