

Good afternoon Executive Director Metruck and Commissioners,

I hope you, your staff, and everyone in your families are safe and healthy. On July 21, CDC published a [“Request for Information Related to Cruise Ship Planning and Infrastructure, Resumption of Passenger Operations, and Summary Questions.”](#)

This is a smoke screen by an agency that is increasingly succumbing to political pressure from a rogue President. Last Friday, CDC reversed its statement on public school readiness for the fall, after coming under criticism from the Trump administration, now saying that the benefits of in school instruction outweigh the risks of COVID, in contrast to the position of an [open letter](#) to America’s decision makers by hundreds of health experts . CDC certainly has the medical expertise to answer all these questions without seeking input from the public. Why else seek input unless to legitimize the appearance of performing due diligence in advance of a rubber stamped "safe resumption of cruise"?

Since June, COVID cases have skyrocketed in the US and globally. Even if an effective vaccine is developed for SARS-CoV-2, influenza is an annual public health issue, and given the destruction of the rain forests, and the imbalances in the biosphere, there may be other pandemics in the near future. We are living in a rapidly changing world, one in which cruise travel as we know it, is no longer safe. Not safe for public health, not safe for the climate, not safe for marine life, and not safe for workers under global capitalism. If the Port continues to hold the position that it will reassess T46 based on market conditions and the advice of the CDC, it risks its own credibility and the health of our shared world. Please cancel the project.