

From the desk of
the Commissioner



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Urgent by Fax

旅遊事務專員用箋

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21 June 2006

Hon Andrew Cheng Kar-foo
Chairman of the Bills Committee on
Smoking (Public Health) (Amendment) Bill 2005
3rd floor, Citibank Tower
3 Garden Road
Hong Kong

Dear Mr Cheng,

Smoking (Public Health) (Amendment) Bill 2005

I refer to the letter from the Chief Executive of the Ocean Park Corporation (OPC) to the Bills Committee dated 19 June 2006, and would like to express our support for the views made by OPC in relation to the amendment proposed by Dr Hon Kwok Ka-ki to ban smoking in the Ocean Park.

The Tourism Commission supports generally the legislative intent of the Smoking (Public Health) (Amendment) Bill 2005 (the Bill). We, however, believe that to bring the Ocean Park into the scope of the Bill will duplicate the existing regulatory framework under the Ocean Park Ordinance (Cap. 388) with respect to smoking control.

Under the existing Ocean Park Bylaw made under the Ocean Park Ordinance, OPC can designate areas within the Park as non-smoking areas by notice, and smoking in designated areas is an offence. In this regard, we note that OPC plans to designate the whole Park as a non-smoking area with effect from 15 July 2006, with the exception of four designated smoking areas. Indeed, this arrangement is in line with

the practice of major theme parks in the US and Europe, and would help strike a balance between the needs and desires of non-smoking and smoking guests who will normally stay in the Park for half a day or more.

We hope that the Bills Committee will take into account OPC's views and our support therefor, and not to include the Ocean Park into the Amendment Bill.

Thank you for your kind attention.

Yours sincerely,



(Miss Au King-chi)
Commissioner for Tourism

c.c.

Members of the Bills Committee on Smoking (Public Health)
(Amendment) Bill 2005

Clerk to the Bills Committee on Smoking (Public Health)
(Amendment) Bill 2005

SHWF	(Attn.: Mrs Ingrid Yeung)
SHA	(Attn.: Mrs Agnes Allcock)
Chairman of OPC Board	(Attn.: Dr Allan Zeman)
Chief Executive of OPC	(Attn.: Mr Tom Mehrmann)

Internal

AA/SEDL

PSED