

香港海豚觀察的信頭
Letterhead of Hong Kong Dolphinwatch

To: Odelia Leung, - Legco Secretary

From: Bill Leverett, Hong Kong Dolphinwatch

Fax Phone Number: (852) 2984-1414

Date: Sat, Jun 12, 1999 • 10:22 AM

Transmitting (1) pages, including cover sheet.

If there is difficulty with this transmission, please call: (852) 2984-7799

Note:

Dear Ms. Leung,

Written submission for Revenue Bills Committee Meeting 15/6/99

Hong Kong Dolphinwatch is a local sightseeing tour operator, in business for over four years now and a member of the Hong Kong Tourist Association. We run up to twenty trips a month, and over half of our passengers are overseas visitors.

While the primary attraction of our trips is the dolphins, the beautiful scenery of North Lantau and the Western New Territories also contributes to the value of the experience. Conversely, if the scenery is obscured by haze, the value of the trip is diminished. This is probably true for every other tour on offer in the industry. Why go to the Peak if you can't see anything from it?

Having done many of these trips over the last four years, I have personally noticed a dramatic decline in visibility, as I'm sure most of you have. Even our skyline, the view across the harbour, which is one of the prime attractions for all overseas visitors, is partially obscured on more and more days of the year. On a good day, the bright blue water, striking buildings, lush green hills and clear blue skies make anyone happy to be here. But these good days are getting fewer and farther between.

Tourists are not just concerned with what they can see, they are concerned with what they can breath. They do a lot of walking at street level. I know I have been turned off from visiting Bangkok and Jakarta again because of traffic and fumes; I'm sure more and more people are feeling that way about Hong Kong.

For the tourism industry, the air is part of our product, along with the architecture, the culture, the food, the hospitality facilities, and the natural attractions. As the smog builds up, our competitive edge in this industry slips.

Yours truly,

Bill Leverett
General Manager