

From: [Alan Corbett](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON TOURISM
Date: Thursday, January 2, 2020 9:42:40 AM

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

To whom it may concern,

As an immigrant who married an Alaskan, have made my home in Juneau for the past 15 years and works in the tourist industry, I am concerned with the constant negative attacks on tourism by a small but vocal minority. Since arriving in this country and Alaska, I have been employed in the tourist industry. First in a local retail shop, then as a professional wildlife photographer, a bear viewing guide, a whale watching captain, and now as the owner of a charter business. Tourism has given me the opportunity to grow in this community, while supporting my family, contributing through sales tax collected in my business as well as donations given to local charities. I am fortunate to live and pursue “The American Dream,” and grateful to be a part of this well rounded community. There are thousands of Juneau residents that benefit from the tourist industry directly (jobs dealing with cruise ship passengers), or indirectly (servicing businesses that deal with cruise ship passengers: mechanics, accountants, lawyers, etc.). Yet, there is a minority of this community who are vocal in their assertion that tourism is “ruining” where we live. Tourism is a sustainable industry, a proven economic driver in Juneau, successfully managed and enhances many of the benefits of living here. We all “indirectly” benefit from tourism, so let’s welcome visitors and remember that whenever we leave Juneau, we are tourists too, hoping to be welcomed and appreciated wherever we go.

Without a thriving tourist industry my family and I would not be able to stay in this community. We would be forced to look elsewhere for employment and I would not be alone. Juneau is already losing jobs to capital creep and that is only going to accelerate in the future. Planning ahead an ensuring a robust and vibrant tourist industry in Juneau, that allows community members to grow and develop their businesses is a smart move. The future is a tourism. Tourism provides employment for the next generation, it is sustainable, benefits the community as a whole through tax revenue, provides a huge cash infusion to our local economy each summer and offers business opportunities to those willing to take them. Manage tourism for the future.

Sincerely,

Alan Corbett
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