

## Testimony to CBJ Task force on Cruise Ship overtourism Jan. 11, 2020

Overtourism by the mega-cruise ships is recognized around the world as a threat to infrastructure, but particularly to the marine environment. The explosive growth of the industry over the past 39 years has found cities and countries around the globe scrambling to find ways to throttle back the flow of visitors that they used to welcome, visitors who are destroying the very things that made the destination attractive to begin with. Venice, Italy banned some large ships from its inner harbor last September. The Flemish city of Bruges is working with the Belgian government to limit port dockings in the nearest large commercial port, and is cutting them more than in half: why, the residents were upset the shops in the city had been replaced by shops selling chocolate and beer to tourists. We sold off our downtown to the cruise ship industry long ago. Dubrovnik in Croatia has capped the number of ships, and Amsterdam put a hefty tax in place on cruise ship tourists. Dublin plans to cut cruise ship action in half by 2021. Cannes, in France, the Greek island of Santorini; Barcelona, and Palma de Majorca in Spain, are all taking measures to cap cruise ship visitors. The destruction of the life of the residents is one reason. The water, air and noise pollution are another.

Ships are racing to Alaska to see the ice before it melts, due to climate change. They burn fossil fuels, and cause environmental degradation with impunity, spewing both legally and illegally hydrocarbons, coliform bacteria in greywater and blackwater, heavy metals, dissolved plastics, bilge water, toxic waste and garbage.

Measures can be taken to stem the tide. Please work to find ways to do it.

(oral comments delivered to the effect that I support tourism, and appreciate local tour operators, who have based their careers on making Juneau an exciting place to visit, and when I have family and friends visit Juneau --- usually for more than a few hours --- I appreciate being able to take advantages of the local tourism offerings.) Thank you.

Laura Fleming, 6737 Marguerite St., Juneau, AK 99801  
laura.fleming06@gmail.com