

From: [Leslie's GCI](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: Mayor's Visitor Industry Task Force
Date: Monday, January 13, 2020 8:23:29 PM

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> As I am unable to testify in person I am sending this as my public input.

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> I have lived in Juneau nearly 61 years, so I was here pre-tourism, during the years that it was growing, as well as living and working here currently. I work downtown and live in Auke Bay, so my tenure in the community and my proximity to tourism related activities collectively give me a fairly broad perspective. I do not work directly for the tourism industry, but consider it a vital part of our southeast economy and it's presence impacts us all in a variety of ways.

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> I understand the concerns voiced by some people about crowding, traffic congestion and disruption of lifestyle. However limiting visitors is not my favored solution. I don't understand how a city effectively accomplishes this. I also don't know of anywhere else in the USA where I am told I cannot visit because the location is "full". I think the message that sends is unwelcoming and dangerous and smacks of governmental over-reach. And again, how would this limitation even be practical in terms of properly assessing it and then managing it?

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> Instead I think the city should continue to look at infrastructure enhancements, including creative ways to move people out of the crowded corridor more quickly and effectively. The seasonal stanchions placed downtown designed to prevent people from diving across the street in the middle of traffic were helpful. Crossing guards have been helpful. I favor more of these types of solutions. Granted, these efforts address crowding and traffic congestion but not necessarily lifestyle challenges, such as the ability to take a peaceful hike or visit our attractions without crowding. For those issues I think we have some industry related resources already in place, such as TBMP, that could be utilized on a larger scale, even if that requires some empowerment for enforcement residing within that or similar organizations. I think they have been effective in enough ways already for us to build upon that model.

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> I'm not sure how you avoid noise or, as palatable as it sounds how it's practical to have a "ship free day". But the people most capable of designing creative solutions are those that are most closely related to the industry. I do think public input is critical for a sustainable tourism model. But I'd like to see more solutions offered, continued investment in infrastructure and an effort to bring together stakeholders, planners, perhaps a sustainable tourism consultancy, and community groups with an eye toward solutions rather than just providing a platform for complaints. I sense a high level of distrust by the "anti tourism" faction for industry related leaders and yet I have not seen evidence to indicate that an organization like TBMP is anything other than diligent in doing their part to mitigate issues on behalf of the local residents. Their willingness to self-regulate is obvious. The solutions reside in large part with them. Working together is critical at this point.

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> I get it - we are a small community and we can really "feel" 6 ships in a day. But with most of the higher paying positions in State Government migrating out of Juneau, and the continued volatility of the fishing industry, tourism is our economic bright spot. I urge you to avoid recommendations that shoot us in the foot from that standpoint. Quality of life is indeed important but that requires a vital economy to accomplish including jobs, services, and infrastructure that is currently being supported by the tourism industry. I hope that any solution considered will be very thoughtful in its implementation.

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> Sustainable tourism requires input from both community members and industry members and I applaud you and thank you for giving us all the opportunity to participate in the discussion.

> Thank you for your time.

> Leslie Dahl