

From: [Kate Glover](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: Comments for Visitor Industry Task Force
Date: Friday, February 21, 2020 9:00:23 PM

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

Dear members of the CBJ Visitor Industry Task Force,

Thank you for your work considering options to make tourism more sustainable for all of us in Juneau. I appreciate the benefits that Juneau gets from tourism and enjoy sharing our beautiful home with visitors, but, as we zone off more and more of Juneau for tourism, I am finding the things I love about Juneau are harder to find in the summer. I ask you to recommend a cap on the number of cruise ships, and I think that cap should be closer to the number of cruise ships we received in 2010 than it is to the number we received last year. The current growth is not sustainable if we want to retain a high quality of life for Juneau residents and a positive experience for tourists.

One of the proposals you have been asked to consider, as an alternative to a cap, is regulations regarding cruise ship docking times. While it may be possible to address some of the impacts of exponential cruise ship visitor growth through this type of regulation (i.e. traffic), this will exacerbate others. For example, during the summer, I hike the Thunder Mountain trail almost exclusively in the evenings, when there are fewer helicopters buzzing overhead. If the same number of cruise ships come to visit, but they are spread out until later in the day, the barrage will be constant, morning to night, and shouting to talk to companions will be necessary no matter when you hike the trail. Similarly, I avoid the glacier entirely in the summer, unless I have my own visitors. But I only take those visitors to the Mendenhall Glacier in the evenings, when there are fewer cruise ships in town and it is less of a circus. If cruise ship docking times are regulated and cruise ships are here at all hours, there will be no less-frenzied time when it's safe for locals to come look for bears at the glacier.

Likewise, as more tourists are visiting, the footprint spreads and locals are displaced from the places we used to go to seek solitude. Ten years ago, the Taku Inlet was one of my favorite kayaking destinations for a 3 day weekend. When I paddled there two years ago, however, with the addition of air boat tours in the Taku Inlet, it has more the atmosphere of a war zone than it does a place for serenity. Unfortunately, it's difficult to paddle much farther than that in a long weekend so there is no substitute. I also used to enjoy evening paddles in the Channel, but now it's a stressful plane and boat-dodging experience that sometimes makes me wish there was some other way to get home. Leaving from Auke Bay is no better, as you're constantly washed in boat wakes.

Please save some of Juneau for the locals, so that we can continue to enjoy the things that make this place home. Cap the number of tourists--it's already out of control.

Thank you for considering these comments.

Sincerely,

Kate Glover and Rob Cadmus