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**FW: comment to Visitor Industry Task Force**

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**From:** Larri Spengler

**Sent:** Wednesday, April 29, 2026 12:30 PM

**To:** City Clerk <City.Clerk@juneau.org>

**Subject:** comment to Visitor Industry Task Force

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

Greetings, Visitor Industry Task Force members:

I have been surprised that so far in your process you have not taken public comment about what Juneau residents hope you will be considering. While the name of the task force references the visitor industry, surely your primary concern should be with how the people who live in Juneau experience the impacts of that industry?

I will give you a few examples.

We have almost given up taking any out-of-town visitors we have (or ourselves, for that matter) to the Mendenhall Glacier, because exploring there among the crowds and crowds off the cruise ships is downright unpleasant. Similarly, we pretty much avoid downtown errands and pleasant downtown wandering for the same reason. Surely the concept of having one weekend day a week without these giant ships would add greatly to our ability to enjoy our own home town in the summer, and would not sink the important parts of Juneau's economy that rely on tourism?

As a Thane resident, for the cruise ship season I face at least 15 or 20 extra minutes to go anywhere, given the masses of pedestrians and buses and shuttles in the downtown core. That is despite the excellent improvements made by way of the crossing guards and the chains and hedges that mostly keep people from meandering out on the only street through there whenever and wherever they please. I hope that your task

force will voice strong support for the crossing guard program and such structural barriers.

If you open the task force up to public input sooner in your process than you have planned you might find other issues (and solutions!) which you could profitably address.

Thank you.

Larri Spengler

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Larri Irene Spengler