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Good public policy is limiting cruise ship tourism so those of us who live here can enjoy the best months of the year. Good public policy is severely restricting the number of ships and passengers and making the foreign flagged, non-U.S. tax paying cruise lines to pay for the damage they are doing to our city, and to make them pay. Right now the passengers pay a fee, the ships pay docking fees (and the more private docks the less revenue to the city). We need city leaders who will work to make Juneau a liveable city. The housing problems we have are also tourism related--hundreds of rental properties are AirB&Bs, and not available to rent year round. The potholes in the streets are caused by large, heavy vehicles--buses! My street has huge potholes caused by Alaska Travel Adventures wide-bodied buses that travel to Basin Road all day, every day. The streets all over town are pocked with potholes caused by heavy vehicles, namely cruise ship related buses. Do cruise companies pay to repair our streets? NO. The roads are unsafe for bicyclists because of the bus, passenger van and Jeep rental car traffic. And the city can't pay for the Juneau-Douglas City Museum, used primarily by cruise ship visitors. Why? Because the cruise companies will not agree to use passenger fees (not money they pay--the money passengers pay) to do anything not related to fixing docks that they use. What a deal! If you can't fish out of Auke Bay because of whale watching vessels nearly sinking your small crafts, it's because of the cruise industry. If you can't carry on a conversation because of helicopter noise, it's because of the cruise industry. If you'd like to go to the glacier during the summer but can't stand the crowds and traffic, it's because of the cruise industry. There's a meeting of the Visitor Industry Task Force on Thursday. They don't care about regular Juneau people. Maybe it is time to think about what you are doing there - task force members.

Elisabeth Babich