
Comments for the Visitor Industry Task Force

From: Bill Kramer
Sent: Tuesday, September 29, 2026 10:18 AM
To: City Clerk <city.clerk@juneau.org>
Subject: Comments for the Visitor Industry Task Force

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September 29, 2026

To the Juneau Assembly and Visitor Industry Task Force:

I have lived in Juneau for over fifty years, and I believe cruise tourism has grown far beyond what is reasonable for a community of our size. [_____](#)

I live in Auke Bay, across the street from Statter Harbor. During the summer, several hundred diesel-powered tour buses pass my home every day. The noise and diesel exhaust are so persistent that on some of the nicest days of the year, we cannot comfortably open our windows.

Statter Harbor has also been transformed. Hundreds of thousands of cruise passengers are bused there each summer to board a fleet of at least 80 whale-watching boats, many making two or three trips a day. What was primarily a community harbor has increasingly become a major commercial tourism staging area, bringing traffic, noise, congestion, and a bus depot directly into a residential neighborhood.

I was recently reminded that Juneau welcomed fewer than one million cruise passengers annually for many years while still having a thriving community and tourism economy. In 2024, that number reached nearly 1.68 million.

We do not have to choose between tourism and no tourism. We need reasonable limits.

I support limiting cruise visitation to no more than 900,000 passengers per year. That would still represent a substantial tourism industry and provide jobs and economic activity, while beginning to restore some balance between the visitor industry and the quality of life of the people who actually live here.

Juneau should be a community first and a tourist destination second.

Thank you for considering the residents who live with the impacts of this industry every day.

Bill Kramer

Juneau, Alaska

