From: Andy Spear
To: City Clerk
Subject: Thoughts on helicopter tours for the assembly to consider.
Date: Tuesday, November 3, 2026 6:47:11 AM

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Dear members of the Assembly:

I know that you have heard just about everything concerning problems with industrial tourism in Juneau, But I would like to emphasize a couple of issues which I think need to be prioritized.

As a resident since 1969, a member of the tourist industry for a number of those years and a member of the Harbor Board also for many years, I have seen a great number of changes in Juneau, but the effects of over tourism pretty much tops it all.

It seems that everyone is focused on the number of tourists that visit Juneau, but I think that the real issue is the impact they impose, and the biggest imposition to our community is the noise and disruption created by helicopter tours, particularly of the glacier. You will note that helicopter tours in Sitka are very limited, so the experience of visiting is magnitudes of quality higher than Juneau's. In addition to the effects on the community, it reduces the quality of our visitors experience which hurts the tourism industry in the long run. If you compare Juneau to a copper mine, it's like a bunch of tourists driving around with bulldozers until the copper is gone and then they will leave.

- So, I think that limiting the number of visitors by cruise ship is very important, managing or eliminating helicopter tours should be primary on the list.

- I also believe that money collected through head taxes should be administered solely the city and borough of Juneau and not dictated the tourist

industry and the federal government.

- There's a balance to be had here, although it will be difficult to achieve, I think tourism can be a definite addition to economy, lifestyle and community. Let's try to do that.

Thank you for your time and service,

Andy Spear

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