From: Deborah Craig
To: Clerks Office; Beth Weldon
Cc: Deborah Craig
Subject: Visitor Industry Task Force
Date: Wednesday, November 4, 2026 8:34:15 AM

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Dear Visitor Industry Task Force members:

I have many concerns about the recommendations made by the Task Force regarding Tourism in Juneau in its stated goal to "identify ways to manage impacts," and "set a broad 10-year tourism direction for Juneau."

Changes in cruise ship size (maga-ships) mandates looking at the issue of managing impacts through the lens of the *number of passengers* vs the current voluntary agreement of a five ship per day limit. Bar Harbor, Maine's current 1000 passenger per limit daily cap has been upheld by a federal court and the Task Force should recommend passenger limits that provide a better balance for residents, and a better experience for visitors. The Assembly should enact an enforceable ordinance that would make the borough-wide five-ship daily limit mandatory in light of West Douglas development *and* enforce a passenger limit.

I support enforcing measures downtown to mitigate congestion and safety that makes sense for both vehicle and pedestrian traffic. I support streetlight installation that improves safety for tourists, as well as local pedestrians using sidewalk throughout winter months, in particular, those using the warming shelter.

I do not support ANOTHER heliport that will disturb *another* neighborhood and increase traffic in *another* section of town. The Thane Neighborhood Association survey was overwhelmingly opposed to any Thane-adjacent location. Additionally, high winds in Thane are significant and we have an active avalanche route on Thane Road.

At the end of the day, we need to significantly diminish the number of visitors to Juneau, not only because it negatively impacts local residents but the sheer volume of visitors also diminishes the experience of those who visit our town. This is an industry that is costly to taxpayers (housing, roads, safety systems, irritation to all) and adds questionable value to our community in the long term when unregulated.

A healthy community embraces healthy tourism at levels that enhances prosperity but does not do so at the expense of taxpayers for the benefit of a few. A healthy community embraces industries that bring permanent, well-paying jobs that appeal to a young workforce that will buy homes, support schools, pay taxes and contribute long term to our community. A healthy community serves its permanent residents with respect and acknowledgement of their value to its long-term health.

We can set healthy limits that serves both residents and visitors.

Thank you for your service,

Deborah Craig