To: CBJ Visitor Industry Task Force
From: Linda Blefgen
Date: 11/4/2026
Re: Public Comments on VITF's Recommendations

I listened to most all the VITF meetings this year and I appreciate the time and effort by the VITF to address items in the Recommendations Tracker. However the impact of the cruise industry to the quality of life for full time residents (property tax payers, community volunteers, supporters of nonprofits) has yet to be addressed.

The Vision Statement in the Vision and Guiding Principles of the Juneau Tourism Management Plan states:

> " A healthy and vibrant tourism sector protecting Juneau's heritage and cultural values, and making a positive contribution to the community's quality of life."

> " Every goal, strategy, and metric in this Plan is checked against this standard."

The 2023 and 2024 Juneau Tourism Survey Reports show increased support for lowering the passenger volume and yet the numbers continue to grow.

The 2024 initiative for Ship-Free Saturdays had the support of 39 % of the voters. Not an insignificant number.

In the Recommendations Tracker #20 regarding Whale Watching, "Recognizing that the status quo is not sustainable…" The status quo is not sustainable for whale watching nor is it sustainable to our community's quality of life.

To quote McHugh Pierre, "I don't want to be told when to do things and when not to do things, because when does it stop and start….?" I agree, I have had quite enough of my requests for moderation of the cruise industry impacting our lives to be sidelined over the requests and concerns of industrial tourism.

There has yet to be a cost benefit analysis of the cruise industry in our community. We know it impacts our infrastructure, health and safety services, air and water quality, and our summer recreation opportunities. And the noise pollution. I celebrate the low cloud, rainy days for the reprieve they bring from the stress of tourism related incessant noise especially from helicopters.

The Preliminary Draft Recommendations is a list of projects at a significant cost to mitigate the issues we face as a result of the over saturation of cruise visitors. Most of the issues can be resolved by CBJ standing strong and protecting our community by reducing the number of passengers offloading on a daily basis.

Thank you.

Linda Blefgen
Auke Bay