

From: [Mike or Kerry](#)
To: [Paula Terrel](#); [City Clerk](#)
Subject: cruise ships
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EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

It is essential to our way of life in Juneau to cap the cruise ship numbers now. I realize they are planning years out for numbers even larger. But it's not good for the long term health of our community.

I hike the trails and wait for tour groups meandering to step aside, multiple times on the same trail. Is there trail maintenance being done with the head tax at least? And once the groups start bumping into each other and its apparent their "wilderness experience" is a cash train, will they spread to more of our trails and impact the locals even more?

The valley is unlivable in the summers with the constant racket of helicopter noise. Friends who live near the flight paths cannot enjoy their own yards and decks for gardening and barbecues all in the name of entertaining cruise ship passengers.

Upper sections of the Thunder mountain trail have us eye to eye with people in the helicopters; five and six at a time several times along the alpine walk. There is noise everywhere.

Then there are the buses. There will be more buses, more exhaust, more waiting behind them while they wait to make turns. The scale of this industry is not conducive to the size of our community.

On the water, coming and going from the Auk Bay harbor, the sea is as rough as if its blowing forty. The constant and huge boat wakes from whale watch boats make it impossible for kayaking and very uncomfortable for the average sport boat. That transit area extends all the way to Point Retreat. And while TBMP has tried to eliviate many of the impacts of tourism on people, it has failed to do so for the whales. There is competitive whale watching going on and real disrespect for the animals in name of a good tip. At least one company guarantees you see a whale, or you don't pay. Not one company out there wants to be doing it for free. They chase them down, run in front of them and take it out of gear in the whale's path. Too much pressure is being put on them and on us.

I don't mind sharing our beautiful city and the incredible wilderness surrounding us, but there is a limit, and we have reached it.

The independent tourist who spends a lot more money and time in Juneau, does not want to share this experience with five or six cruise ships worth of traffic on the streets, on the trails, on the water, or in the air. Don't sell out our unique town cheap. More is not better!

For several years my in-laws took us on cruises. The evening before landing in a port, they would show a slideshow about what awaited us and what we should and should not do there. We were always warned against the independent tours and shops. The cruise line could not guarantee getting back to the ship in time and would be our responsibility and cost to catch up with a ship that would not wait. The shops associated with the cruise lines had the best deals and people could return things they bought at the same shops in other destinations visited by the cruise line.

For 11 years I had a kayak and motorboat rental business in Douglas harbor and Auke Bay. We initially tried to provide a service to the cruise lines but were told the needs were already being met. They further advised their passengers to book with the provider that kicked them back a nice percentage and again, could not guarantee their passenger's safety nor their timely return to the boat with the independents.

The population of Juneau will be stressed to the point of retaliation. Taking out their grief on people who do not deserve it. The cruise lines should be responsible to this community, not be greedy, and limit themselves. But that likely will not happen. Therefore, this community must do it. And will.

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