

**From:** [Laurie Sica](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Tourism public comment  
**Date:** Saturday, January 11, 2020 8:51:34 AM

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**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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## To the CBJ Tourism Task Force:

My comments support tourism as a positive industry for Southeast Alaska. I moved from Washington to Alaska in 1981 to work for the Westours Hotel “The Klondike” in Skagway. I immediately fell in love with Alaska (and my husband), and decided to stay.

I volunteered to answer letters for the Chamber of Commerce from people interested in visiting Skagway. This turned into a part time job with the City of Skagway for the newly formed Convention and Visitors Bureau. We cheered in the early 80’s when we exceeded 200,000 visitors in a season.

The growth of cruise tourism over the last 40 years has brought significant change and challenge, but has floated the boat for all communities in Southeast as a major renewable resource. We are mining the potential for people to fall in love with our state and see the beauty we see, welcome the world to our shores and hope they will be enamored by their experience and want to return.

We should be careful when considering a cap on the number of visitors, limiting people’s freedom to visit this beautiful place. We should invite the challenge to host, accommodate and think big. This is a huge state with plenty of room and we should be able to share our wealth with others.

I can’t imagine that telling people they can’t visit a city, no matter how they arrive, because they are the 8th, the 800th, or the 800,000th visitor, is legal, fair or a wise way to approach increasing numbers of visitors. Skagway has almost as many visitors as Juneau does, and despite being a much smaller town, offers a warm welcome. Skagway is fortunate to have the WP&YR narrow gauge railway take many of the visitors off the streets and up the mountain - a version of a “relief valve” mentioned in previous tourism studies. Juneau might benefit from more shore excursions and good logistical planning in coordination with the ships to facilitate the movement and maximize the enjoyment of visitors.

Thank you for an opportunity to comment on this matter.

Sincerely,

Laurie Sica  
P.O. Box 23001  
Juneau, AK 99802