

From: [Chris Dimond](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Cc: [Carole Triem](#)
Subject: Visitor Industry Task Force
Date: Monday, January 13, 2020 10:42:36 AM

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

To CBJ Visitor Industry Task Force,

I am writing today in support of Juneau's tourism industry and the benefits tourism has brought to our community.

I was born (1974) and raised in Juneau. I have lived the majority of my life here. I have also raised my two daughters here, one is off to college and the other will be leaving this summer for college. I also represent approximately 110 Carpenters who call Juneau home and are raising their families here as well.

Tourism has brought enormous wealth to our community. It has helped pay for significant infrastructure projects, projects that have ensured my 110 members and their families can continue to call Juneau home. Here is a small list of recent public projects that have kept Juneau men and women working:

The Seawalk
Visitor Info Building
Ports & Customs Building
WM Overstreet Park (Whale Park)
Egan dr 10th st to Main st rebuild
Archipelago Project

Countless private projects have also kept my members employed. These combined public/private projects have been key to keeping my members residing here in Juneau rather than packing up their families and moving south. In the past year alone, 10% of our statewide membership have taken a dispatch for work in either Seattle or Portland. We have not seen that level of exodus from Juneau.

All of these projects ensure that my members, their spouses and their children can continue to reside here in Juneau. That means these members and their spouses purchase groceries, clothing, vehicles, boats, homes, cabins and so on. They spend money on activities like skiing, frequenting bars and restaurants, plays and movies. Their children are enrolled in public, private and charter schools and take part in countless community activities.

The economic effects of the above cycle have been and can continue to be profound for Juneau. Whether directly or indirectly, tourism creates good paying jobs as well as adding to the overall quality of our lives here.

Tourism has changed significantly over the course of my life here. It has brought both positives and negatives to our community. I believe the positives have far outweighed the negatives. I know if we, as a community spend more time focusing on forward thinking,

planning and development for both the tourism industry and those of us who reside here, we can both support and responsibly sustain tourism.

It is time we stop being known as a "NO" community. Wasting time debating arbitrary caps on visitors to our State's Capital will only further show the rest of the state and the tourism industry we are not a partner with either.

Instead, we need to be having discussions on what we can invest in our community to make tourism less negatively impactful to locals, yet still allow for growth as the industry grows. If we want to continue to remain the Capital City of Alaska, we must look for ways to provide jobs, infrastructure development and sustainability. If we want to continue to support and retain young families in Juneau, we must look for ways to provide jobs and resources. Tourism is one pathway for that.

I would urge this task force to best utilize your time looking at how we can positively continue to develop our community to properly handle this rapidly growing industry. This should include looking at any additional sources of revenue we can be gaining from the industry (such as taxes/fees). What types of infrastructure can we be building that would best alleviate strain on our road systems, utilities, air quality and overall downtown area. Look for new ways to partner with the industry to ensure they are minimizing their impacts and providing a positive community presence (one example: perhaps the major cruise companies could invest in a new incinerator for Juneau's landfill).

Thank you all for taking on this thankless task.

--

Chris Dimond

Lead Representative

Pacific Northwest Regional Council Of Carpenters

1751 Anka St.

Juneau, AK 99801

Toll Free:800-478-3675

Mobile :[907-290-9007](tel:907-290-9007)

Fax :907-586-3671

Email: cdimond@nwcarpenters.org

Website: www.nwcarpenters.org

STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY & DISCLAIMER: The information contained in this email message is confidential, intended only for the use of the individual or entity named above. If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution or copy of this email is strictly prohibited. If you have received this email in error, please notify us immediately by replying and delete the message. Thank you.