

From: [Robert Young](#)
To: [Borough Assembly](#); Cityclerk@juneau.org
Subject: Visitor industry task force
Date: Tuesday, January 14, 2020 1:04:21 PM

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

Juneau is my home town & has been for more than 45 years, we raised our children here, one still lives, and we currently are retired here. When I first arrived here, there wasn't much tourism or mining going on, the only local job opportunities were in the public sector, minimal retail, some construction and service opportunities existed. The two mines that are now up and running faced stiff resistance for years and years and years before they finally got the permits necessary to move forward. If the price of minerals had not been so high they never would have stuck it out long enough to start to contribute to our economy. So far tourism hasn't meet with nearly as much resistance, so far is the operative phrase as far as I'm concerned. Both of our children worked in some fashion in the tourist industry during their summer vacations when they were home from school. In fact with some good financial planning, a little help from us and hard work on their part, they both got out of college without owing money to anyone. This couldn't have been done without the growth of the tourist industry over time. The daughter who returned to live here has worked for Juneau Youth Services for the past 10+- years, with the last few being in the suicide prevention programs in the high schools. Her husband is in the tourist industry and has been in it for a long as she has known him. I support the tourist industry because it has supported & continues to support us. The more we can do to keep it local the better, some of the people who run the fishing charters, whale watch boats, bus drivers, sell the tours and retail shops are our neighbor's who need our support. Make it easier to do business not harder, not more regulations to fulfill and permits to obtain. The tourist industry does add to our expenses as far as road maintenance, police oversight, docks harbors and hospital staff are concerned; these also are jobs for some of the locals. The city should be able to spend the tax dollars generated by this industry in any of these areas, not just docks and harbor related issues. The tour ships own many of the shops along South Franklin, how much do they pay in property taxes, how many locals collect this rent. The city rents the booths where many of the tours are sold and collects a 5% sales tax on what is bought. We all get a cut out of these funds because the income provided is that much less than we must raise through sales or property taxes on ourselves. Why is it that the population in Juneau isn't growing? Is they city government there to help to hinder growth? More jobs equals more people, fewer jobs equal fewer people, what happened to the local economy (the price of your house) the last time we had a 10% loss in population? Where you around the last time that happened, it hasn't been that long ago? More than 50% of the people who own a house in Juneau would owe more against it than they could sell it for if this where to happen again. It wasn't pretty. Had there been a no or slow growth policy then, maybe the job you have now wouldn't have been there for you to get. Things change one way or the other; we will move forward or backward. We get to live the consequences of our choices and actions. Mine is for growth because I want my children and grandchild to be able to find a job and live in Juneau should she so choose to, in my opinion it is a great place to live and the fact that has more than 2.5 times the number of people in it now than it had when I first got here is a positive point because it has make it a even better place to live in. Lets keep it up, not run it down! Thanks for you time. Bob Young