

From: [Eric](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: Tourism task force
Date: Wednesday, January 15, 2020 9:00:51 PM

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

Hello,

I am unable to attend Thursday's meeting to testify in person but I would like to add my voice to those who have expressed the need for all of us to work together on tourism issues. It is not a matter of "us" or "them", it's a matter of what can "we" do to keep Juneau as the top Alaskan destination.

The growth we have seen in the past few years has been a boon for the industry and for Juneau as well. This growth has allowed the Red Dog saloon and mercantile to hire 5 more employees during the summer than normal and to increase the hours for the rest. We are proud to be able to employ up to 50 people during the summer season. Many of whom live here year round and attend school here.

Every year we provide many young people with their first job. We teach them skills they will use the rest of their lives.

The increase in summer business has also allowed us to remain open during the winter and increase our year round employees to 12.

The increase in visitors has created some new challenges for the industry and through the efforts of the TBMP we have worked hard to mitigate those impacts. I would strongly recommend we continue using this successful program to address some of the legitimate concerns that have been raised.

I live here year round, I live downtown, I have a child in the school system, I own property here and I believe the benefits of tourism far far out weigh any negatives. As a business owner I know that many of the businesses and amenities we ALL enjoy are only possible because of the visitor industry.

We can handle the projected slow increase in visitors in the coming years and reap even more benefits for our great town if we work together and address the challenges in a positive and collaborative way.

Thank you for your work on this issue and I look forward to another season of welcoming people from all over the world to our beautiful town!

Eric Forst
Red Dog Saloon
Sent from my iPhone