

From: [DOUGLAS MERTZ](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: Visitor Industry Task Force Comments
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Here are my comments on the issues before the Visitor Industry Task Force.

1. The current level of visitors can be managed well, without loss of jobs and without loss of amenities available to visitors. It will require a lot of cooperation from the industry, including local businesses, as well as ingenuity in planning to minimize the impacts, especially downtown. It also means that dispersing tourists to places they don't now utilize must be done very carefully so as not to impact on or decrease what is available to local residents. Nothing will turn local residents against even the current number of visitors faster than having their own special places, e.g., trails and berry picking spots, such as at Eaglecrest, impacted by tourists in busses and on foot.
2. However, an increase over the current number of tourists, especially those arriving in mass modes such as tour ships, is not acceptable and will permanently damage local opportunities and local willingness to accept tourism impacts. To be blunt, this means no increase in the number of cruise ships or their capacity. There are many ways this can be done, including not allowing more berths and restricting publicly financed amenities. The single most important thing we can do as a community is to cap the number of cruise ship passengers. We can deal with the current number but more will only hurt the residents of Juneau.

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