

## Emily Deach

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**Subject:** Economic Stimulus Program

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**From:** Kendra Guilliams

**Sent:** Tuesday, June 2, 2020 12:43 AM

**To:** Emily Deach <e.deach@skagway.org>

**Subject:** [External Email] Economic Stimulus Program

Emergency Funding and Economic Stimulus Package- Cares Act and CPV Funding

June 1, 2020

Dear Finance Committee, Skagway Assembly, and Mayor Cremata,

First off, my family truly and sincerely thanks you for all that you have done and continue to do for our community during this unprecedented time. We can not imagine being tasked with the burden of mitigating these unthinkable circumstances we as a community currently find ourselves in. One thing Skagway has consistently been able to maintain that separates us from most is the strength of our community. With that being said, the recently proposed amendments to Resolution No. 20-22 we fear could be detrimental to being able to maintain that strength in which we all so heavily rely and cherish.

In particular we take issue with the following proposed edits to the resolution: kids under the age of 14 not being eligible for the \$1000.00 a month and anyone working more than 20 hours a week not being eligible. Children deserve to be considered when thinking about how to disperse these funds. We have three young boys and they cost money to raise, especially in our town. Groceries alone is a hefty price-tag for a family of five. We would hate to see families choosing to leave Skagway because they can't afford to raise their families here. This would be a huge loss to the Skagway School that depends on funding based on enrollment. Gambling with our children's education is not a risk we can take.

Speaking on the employment eligibility, people work insane schedules in the summer to make it through the winter here. We feel it is against our best interest to assume that people working 20 hours + don't need this assistance. For instance, in our family one of us works a year round full time job, but this is in no way an accurate portrayal of our full financial picture. We own a small business, that will potentially remain closed all summer, and one of us usually works an additional part-time job in the summer. Without our business and part-time income, we are left with less than half of our normal yearly income. We give our family's situation as an example, because we know we are not a unique situation; our town is made up of lots of families that work excessive hours in the summer, at two plus jobs, just to be able to call this wonderful place home year round.

Is giving each resident \$1000.00 a month excessive? We don't believe so. We think that in times of uncertainty and unbelievable stress, it is the kind and necessary thing to do to take this financial burden from our community. It would also help create discretionary funds helping to stimulate the local economy, which will surely need all the help it can get. We can not have a healthy community without making sure that our people and our businesses are well cared for.

Thank you again for all of your hard work and commitment to our community.

Thank you for listening,

Kendra and Jesse Guilliams