

Capt. Kevin [REDACTED]
Sun 4/12/2020 1:37 PM

To: Economic Stabilization;

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

To Whom It May Concern:

Linda,

I am Capt. Kevin Burchfield...owner and operator of Lost in Alaska Adventures...a fishing and whale watching company...and I am also the president of the Juneau Charter Boat Operators Association...we represent 14 local fishing and whale watching companies. All of our members have been hit unbelievably hard by this pandemic...most are looking at a possible total loss for the 2020 season! Some of our members companies simply will not survive without a tremendous amount of assistance.

The CBJ Emergency Loan Program was a good first step...however most of the smaller operators would not be able to access these funds as the terms are too onerous...a one person company with one boat simply cannot afford to take on a huge monthly payment that could be as much as \$800-1000. But for the larger companies that do have that ability it does have merit.

We would like to suggest some other possible options/programs that could be beneficial to more companies:

1. Establish a Grant Program offering grants of up to \$10-15k for all small businesses.
2. Remove or greatly reduce the fees required for dock front sales booth space for the next 2-3 years. (Freeze the current permits)
3. Remove or greatly reduce dock passenger fees for the next 2-3 years. Including Passenger Permit Fees.
4. Freeze or remove the property tax burden on any commercial property used by small businesses.

To fund these programs please consider the following options:

1. Access funds from the Cruise Ship Head Tax. (These funds must be used to benefit cruise passengers and this use would directly fall in that scope!)
2. Allocate some of CBJ's Emergency Fund Savings.
3. Propose a .5% or 1% sales tax on all tourism sales for a specified period of time.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best Fishes!

Capt. Kevin Burchfield
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