

## Brenwynne Grigg

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**From:** Alisha Decker [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 12, 2020 2:52 PM  
**To:** Economic Stabilization  
**Subject:** Southeast Alaska Hunting/ Opening Alaska

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

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Economic Stabilization Task Force,

Thank you for your time in reading my email, with humble patience we are reaching out to you. We operate Glacier Guides Inc. out of Gustavus, a Yacht based outfitter for hunting, fishing and as a permit holder for Glacier Bay tour adventures. We moor our vessel, the Alaskan Grandeur, in Juneau at Aurora harbor.

In our unique situation we feel we have few alternatives for relief, the winter cash has run dry and we see guides all over that state reaching out for direction. Many don't qualify for the PPP program or for unemployment and taking on more debt simply isn't an option. No Federal CARES Act funds were set aside for our industry that was shut down by the Governor canceling all Non Resident hunting. We are asking if, and when may we resume guiding? If fishing charters can operate, and as has been provided for in the State of Alaska plan, why can't hunting guides? We think we can resume guiding if our clients can get to us. We believe June is a good opportunity for the limited interaction from very small groups that we work with to resume hunting in SE Alaska. This would only last about three weeks at most. If June is an option for non resident hunting what do outfitters need to do and have in place to do so? We have clients ready and prepared to come but we need some lead time to prepare and de-winterize equipment as well as having mitigation plans in place and submitted to the state. We need a few modifications or exemptions to state mandates to allow us to operate June 1.

As guide outfitters, we have no one advocating for our families and businesses as we service the nonresident hunter and work in remote wilderness. The ripple effect of our operations being shut down is being felt all across Southeast. Our operation alone brings roughly \$44,600 dollars a year to Fish and Game through license and tag sales. One of the air charter services we use sent us the following in an email: "Things are really rough for Pacific Wings right now and there is some uncertainty if the company can survive this! We will know more in a couple weeks." This company has serviced our operation for over 30 years out of Petersburg! Each year, our charters with Pacific Wings in Petersburg and also with Ward Air out of Juneau, total over \$30,000 on air charter services for our clients alone, and much of that spent in the spring. We moor our vessels and supply our vessel out of Juneau supporting a wide selection of business. My guides have run out of the 'winter cash' as well. One of my guides has operated two shops in downtown Juneau tied to the Cruise industry for the last 20 years. Now with the collapse of the 2020 season, he was looking to guiding as a backup for his family. Then, the devastating news of the closure of nonresident spring bear season until the end of May, and now June uncertainty, has him looking at other options for full-time work. Finding good assistant guides for our operation is already very difficult with the numerous and complex regulations of the Big Game Commercial Services Board and also compounded by the fact that all of our guides must also have USCG operator licenses in addition to their guide licenses to even operate! Losing even one guide, and a high quality one at that, is just another very harsh blow. To add to it, city government in Gustavus is looking to impose local mandates by keeping the city docks closed until October to keep Non-residents out, further crippling Gustavus businesses that purchase supplies from Juneau. Juneau is critical to our local infrastructure in Gustavus, just 60 miles away.


I bring to light these challenges as the struggle is real. We can't sit home, plant gardens, and hold our hands out for Government programs. I respectfully ask for support from the City of Juneau to the Governor and the State to look for

ways to enable exemptions for travel be made for the Non Resident Hunter in the reopening of bear season in Southeast in order to let the June hunts continue. As Airlines are requiring PPE on the planes and our activities are very remote our visitors will spend very limited time in Juneau and smaller bush communities will be avoided. Contract tracing is possible with our operation as guest are known travelers and groups are limited to 4-8 guests at a time. Many of our guests are experienced travelers and have evacuation insurance subscription services such as Ripcord, Global Rescue, or MedJet. As you can imagine, guest quarantine for 14 days first in a hotel in Juneau then going out on are trip are simply not an option that guests would consider.

Please allow our operations a glimmer of hope and support a soft opening with limited number of Non-resident travelers!

Most Sincerely,

Alisha 'Mutts" Decker  
Zach Decker

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