

I've listened to three of your meetings, I see and hear the difficulty of the process. I appreciate the effort and good intention I believe you all to have

The ideology of a local, self-sufficient economy in Juneau is a fallacy – the goods of all retailers are imported on the same barge. Offering grants only to locally owned businesses, when all pay property, sales and other taxes, is simply an anticompetitive, discriminatory trade barrier and borderline corrupt, as is your talk of offering utility credits for receipts from only local shops. I'd rather see everyone given a flat credit on their utilities.

Either way, this grant program would put most of the money in the hands of landlords, banks, insurance companies, and suppliers who are not necessarily and are probably not in Juneau. I was opposed to the rental assistance program for the same reason – a simple tactic to delay a decline in rental and housing prices as the recession deepens by sending money to the landlord, to pay mortgage and insurance bills. Hopefully a local contractor remodeled a kitchen or put in a new heat pump, saving the landlord on utilities next year.

The tourism industry just had its head chopped off, and we can't put it back. A business that relied on tourists is not going to use that grant to hire anyone, because there is no work to do. We cannot float businesses until they recover. I'm taking the libertarian, laissez-faire stance here and saying leave the market alone. The only exception I'm considering is a consumer or business grant to expand capacity and reduce the cost of child and elderly care (neither apply to me, though I work for the school district), to ensure the workforce has the ability to participate in the labor market. And I did hear the idea mentioned, which I support, of trying to reduce new business startup costs. The storefronts will fill up when people are here to shop.

Look at the JEDC Economic Indicators report, Figure 9. In Juneau, 2018, Retail combined with Leisure and Hospitality, employed on average 32% of the private sector, 20% of the total workforce. Page 15 says 45.8% of accommodation and food service jobs are worked by *non-locals*. Figure 24 uses different categories, but my interpretation is that at least 1,000 seasonal jobs won't exist this year. Spend some time thinking about the other sectors instead. There is much here to think about, my point is we should be looking at opportunities to preserve and grow economic sectors where opportunity exists, not expending resources on terminal ones, and a great way to do that is a fast pivot to get people working in those remaining sectors. And we need data.

Can you subsidize participation in a job training program, such as education credits with UAS or the local unions? Can we talk to the seafood processors, to try getting Juneau residents hired? Or the independent fishing businesses, the barge and transportation companies, the construction companies tearing up our roads, and the mines? These would be aided by a "travel bubble" with other Southeast Communities, if the State allows it. Do we have any information from the unemployment office about what individual needs are, or is everything just assumptions?

The inward-looking nationalistic sentiment of self-sufficiency is prevalent. But Juneau cannot do this. Simply handing out money as fast as possible is understandable, however it will be spent outside our borders. The legislature hasn't even appropriated those funds yet (as of this writing), so slow down, breathe, we have a minute to think about this and plan for desirable outcomes using sound economic theory.