



Rum Runner Charters

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Our 28th Year!



Economic Stabilization Task Force

Juneau, AK

October 7, 2020

Ref: Extreme Hardship Grant Proposal

To Whom It May Concern;

My name is Chris Conder. I live in Juneau and run Rum Runner Charters. This year was our 28th year. We are what I would consider the typical Mom and Pop business, pretty small, local and our money stays here in town. We have two boats and have excursions going almost every day throughout the season (pretty much nonstop). We usually employ two full time Captains and two full time deck hands, plus me (local residents). Our overhead is pretty high because, as many of you know, boats are expensive, but we were healthy businesswise. We have done well enough to slowly expand and were looking to add a third boat this last season.

Almost all of our business comes from the cruise ships. Our company, like so many others, was decimated by the Covid 19 cancellations and precautions. We saw just a couple of local trips in May and June. Then when the travel restrictions eased, independent travelers started slowly showing up in July and August and we saw some business. In September, we were back down to just a couple of trips. All total, we had a loss of 88% of our business income.

A couple of things did help us out, the emergency loan from CBJ (THANK YOU!) and we qualified for the PPP program, which allowed us to keep on two of our people (my other employees were able to stay on with their winter jobs). We are still here, hanging on by a shoe string. There are a lot of large future bills coming due (insurance, winter storage, maintance and repayment of the CBJ loan are just a few). That is a big concern, especially now we are hearing that if/when the cruise ships return next summer they are likely to be at a seriously reduced number and currently the ones that are sailing are not allowing independent shore excursions. That is a problem for all of us.

I do hope that you will consider the Extreme Hardship Grant. Things will eventually return to normal and business will again pick up and be robust. This grant would help many of us weather these lean times.

Thank you for your time. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Chris Conder

Rum Runner Charters