
From: Mark and Julie Jonas
Sent: Wednesday, February 25, 2009 11:12 AM
To: Senator_Con_Bunde@Legis.state.ak.us
Subject: Tourism marketing funding

Dear Senator Bunde,

Please support funding for Alaska's tourism marketing program. Alaska is in a unique position to gain from the sustainable travel and tourism industry. Dollars brought in to the state keep secure current and future jobs for many Alaskans, as well as programs that insure the viability and protection of our rich and vibrant land. The time is now to think of the long term, instead of consistently focusing on short term benefits.

The recent economic downturn is partially being attributed to large corporate greed and irresponsibility. Let's allow the small businesses in the tourism industry that practice good ethics the chance to benefit from funding that will enable them to showcase Alaska in a way that promotes respect both for and with travelers.

Quality of life is highly valued in Girdwood - and many of those employees who work in the tourism industry reside here and contribute to their community in immeasurable ways - whether it be through individual volunteerism, individual financial contributions to various non-profits and "causes", or business donations. I know this because I see it first hand through my job as the Four Valleys Community School Coordinator. My fear is that we will spiral further downward economically, socially, and environmentally if we do not support an industry that is good for my community and good for Alaska as a whole.

Whether it is through certain taxes or another creative solution, please support funding for Alaska tourism marketing.

Sincerely,

Julie Jonas
P.O. Box 772
Girdwood, AK 99587