

Nat Drumheller
PO Box 186
Gustavus, Alaska

10 December 2024

Gustavus City Council

Dear City Council,

I am writing in support of the city working with Southeast Alaska Land Trust to protect the beach uplands of the DeBoer homestead. I ask that you approve the Conservation Lands Leasing Project and that you approve the \$25,000 grant from the Endowment Fund for the project.

It is difficult to overstate the importance of the DeBoer grasslands to the people and wildlife of Gustavus. This land is at the center of our lives as a place to walk and recreate and as a place of scenic beauty with unobstructed views. There is no other comparable place on our road system. This land is part of an important resting and fueling stopover for migrating birds and is an important place for breeding and wintering birds. These uplands are also at the center of a beach travel corridor for terrestrial mammals.

I believe the open grasslands along Dock Road are essential to the character and well-being of our community and are important for wildlife. The DeBoer family has generously kept these lands undeveloped and open to people and to wildlife. We have benefited from this gift for many years. The loss for the community and for wildlife if these lands are developed will be irreparable.

Thank you for your efforts on our behalf.
Nat Drumheller