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VIA Email

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City Council, City of Gustavus
P.O. Box 1
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RE: October 2017 Wilson Road and Private Property Flood Event

Greetings Mayor McLaughlin and Honorable City Council Members:

I am writing to express my support for two agenda items on the 12/16/24 regular meeting of the city council: endowment fund grant transfer and CY24-21 (Xunaa Borough Petition).

FY25-06NCO Endowment Grant Transfer – Gustavus Natural Lands Lease Project

I strongly support the scoping document and \$25,000 - \$30,000 request to fund the first two years of the Gustavus Natural Lands Lease Project (GNLLP). I am highly supportive of the overall long-term goal of preserving and securing access to 235 acres of privately-owned DeBoer Family property on both sides of the Dock Road, upland from the beach, and commonly referred to as the “golf course”. I have walked, picked strawberries, and enjoyed the DeBoer Family land for more than 20 years. For two decades, I have marveled at the generosity of the DeBoer Family to allow public access to their private lands. These particular lands are iconic to Gustavus as they provide 360-degree views of an amazing landscape that has become synonymous with Gustavus’ identity. It is simply incredible, and a rare occurrence in today’s world, that privately-held and highly-valued land is made available for the public without any compensation or formal agreement... for decades of steady public use. I recommend the city council approve the funding request to support the exploration of conservation and access options in collaboration with the Southeast Alaska Land Trust.

CY24-21 City of Gustavus Resolution re: Xunaa Borough Petition

I strongly support and encourage the city council to pass the resolution directing city administration to file for reconsideration of the Local Boundary Commission’s decision to approve the Xunaa Borough petition (11.12.24). I believe the Local Boundary Commission erred in their consideration and application of the standards, established by state law and regulation, that must be met to secure petition approval. The LBC openly acknowledged the shortcomings of the petition and challenges associated with meeting statutory requirements. The only viable path forward to ensure Gustavus’ interests are fully considered is to request reconsideration of the LBC decision, which oftentimes requires legal representation for strategic purposes.

Regards,



Nicole Grewe