



## FY21 (Spring) Funding Cycle

Public Comment received June 1<sup>st</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>

**From:** [Dan Martin](#)  
**To:** [Big Sky Resort Area District Information](#)  
**Cc:** [Candace Carr Strauss](#)  
**Subject:** Big Sky Chamber and Visit Big Sky Resort Tax Allocations  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 3, 2020 9:03:54 AM

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Dear Board,

These two organizations are an essential ingredient to the Big Sky community, and are what will propel Big Sky out of the Covid crisis. The support the Chamber has lent throughout the crisis only highlights the work they do on a regular basis to bind the community together. Their work on governance, low income housing, transportation issues, development, and other key infrastructure issues is critical to the community.

Likewise, Visit Big Sky on an efficient budget promotes the community in order to bring in more Resort Tax making it a self-fulfilling prophecy. If you compare the budget of that organization to other CVB budgets in ski areas throughout the west, I think you will find it is a fraction of their spends. My business and many others are thankful for the promotion of the community as a whole, the information VBS provides for us to make solid business decisions, and that VBS coordinates those efforts with the other large private organizations marketing efforts.

There are many worthy organizations to fund, however, I cannot think of two organizations that have a more direct impact on funding and growing the community responsibly.

Thank you for your time,

Dan Martin  
Owner, Karst Stage  
Vice Chair, Visit Big Sky

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**From:** Adrienne Fleckman <[afleckman@gmail.com](mailto:afleckman@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, June 3, 2020 9:09 AM

**To:** [info@bigskychamber.com](mailto:info@bigskychamber.com); Big Sky Resort Area District Information <[info@resorttax.org](mailto:info@resorttax.org)>

**Subject:** Re: ACTION REQUESTED: We Need YOU to Voice Your Support for the Big Sky Chamber's FY21 Resort Tax Application

I support the increase in Resort Tax which fairly spreads burden among all citizens. I support the chamber of commerce use of funds to help small businesses in the community, provide emergency funding to those who need it and enhance infrastructure. I particularly would like to see widening of Lone Mountain Trail up the mountain to provide more, and safer, bike paths, increased local affordable mixed use housing for employees around Big Sky and massively increased frequency and extent of local transportation with enhanced ventilation in the era of Covid-19.

Regards,

*Adrienne M Fleckman, Big Horn 33*

[afleckman@gmail.com](mailto:afleckman@gmail.com)

CELL (347) 446-1881

**From:** [Ali Pizza](#)  
**To:** [Big Sky Resort Tax District Information](#)  
**Subject:** Discovery School Funding  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 16, 2020 10:39:34 AM

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Hello,

I'm a local in Big Sky and my family is looking at enrolling both our children in preschool for the next school year. The tuition assistance program directly impacts whether or not we are able to enroll our children. I work at the Hungry Moose market as a baker in the central kitchen, and my partner works at Ousel and Spur Pizza As the chef and back of the house manager. We have been in Big Sky for 4 and a half years contributing to the community and raising our babies and now that they're preschool aged, we have found the cost of enrolling them to be too much of a burden to our family's financial means. Funding for Discovery School is essential for meeting the needs of the families in Big Sky for early childhood development.

Thank you,

Ali Pizza  
801-884-7894

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Bob Biggerstaff](#)  
**To:** [Big Sky Resort Tax District Information](#)  
**Subject:** Big Sky Chamber of Commerce  
**Date:** Monday, June 8, 2020 11:17:17 AM

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I urge you to support the Big Sky Chamber of Commerce request for funding. The Chamber represents and promotes the business' that are collecting the resort tax and Big Sky in general. Their efforts will continue to create more resort tax income.

Bob



BIGGERSTAFF + CO

**Bob Biggerstaff**  
[bob@biggerstaffco.com](mailto:bob@biggerstaffco.com)

**Biggerstaff + Co**  
406.995.4875  
PO Box 12035  
Bozeman, MT 59719  
[biggerstaffco.com](http://biggerstaffco.com)

**From:** [Wheeler, Brian](#)  
**To:** [Big Sky Resort Tax District Information](#)  
**Cc:** [Laura Seyfang](#)  
**Subject:** BSCHT application  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 10, 2020 9:29:51 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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Good morning,

Please accept this letter of support for the Big Sky Community Housing trust application. Laura and her team have performed exceptionally well with providing the community a program to be proud of. Your past confidence is paying dividends and continued support will insure a solid future given the proven success. Your commitment is greatly appreciated and I see a bright future for all involved.

Thank you for your consideration

**Brian Wheeler**

Vice President of Real Estate and Development | Big Sky Resort  
50 Big Sky Resort Road | PO Box 160001 | Big Sky, MT 59716  
(D) 406-995-5775 | (C) 406-539-4215  
[www.bigskyresort.com](http://www.bigskyresort.com)

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**From:** [Brittany Shirley](#)  
**To:** [Big Sky Resort Tax District Information](#)  
**Subject:** support for Discovery Academy funding  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 10, 2020 12:40:28 PM

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Hello!

We are writing to offer our support for full funding of Discovery Academy's ask of the Resort board this year. We understand there are many challenges our community has encountered in this unique start to 2020 and wanted to share the important impact that your past support of Discovery has personally made for our family.

Because of your support, Discovery Academy was able to offer scholarships to both of our preschool aged children. With the provided tuition assistance, our family has been able to access the amazing Montessori curriculum that is provided by their outstanding early childhood educators. In addition, because we had very affordable child care, my husband has been able to grow his small personal business making our foothold in this community all the stronger. We do not have outside financial support, so this ability, along with the teacher salary I make have been so critical to our ability to create a more solid financial foundation for our family.

Time and again, Discovery Academy has worked extremely hard to meet the needs of our family. It is this kind of dedication to members of our community that we so desperately need in our growing town. We implore you to fully fund the ask they are making of the Resort Tax Board.

In gratitude,  
The Shirley Family

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[Brittany Shirley](#)  
[PYP Program Coordinator & Instructional Coach](#)  
[Ophir Elementary School, Big Sky, Montana](#)

**From:** [Chris McMillan](#)  
**To:** [Big Sky Resort Area District Information](#)  
**Subject:** I support the Gallatin Invasive Species Alliance!  
**Date:** Friday, May 29, 2020 1:33:43 AM

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The Gallatin Invasive Species Alliance has helped me identify and eradicate most of the invasive flora species on my Big Sky property. I realize how lucky I am to own a home here and feel it's my duty to eradicate the "weeds" that exist as a direct result of the construction of my home.

The construction and development in the area over the last 35 years is staggering. Please keep supporting the Gallatin Invasive Species Alliance so we can responsibly maintain the natural beauty of this land.

Christine McMillan  
Homeowner

Sent from my iPhone



**From:** [Chris Moon](#)  
**To:** [Big Sky Resort Tax District Information](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment - Trimming Expenses  
**Date:** Sunday, June 14, 2020 7:30:25 PM

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Dear Resort Tax Board -

Thank you for the hard work you are doing to allocate dollars collected by local businesses for investment into the Big Sky Community.

The office of professionals that do the daily work around resort tax and collections has grown substantially in the past year. Since you, the board, have asked the non-profits and organizations of Big Sky to tighten their belts and explore alternative funding avenues, I wonder if it is time to take a hard look at the office of Resort Tax and make some tough decisions about staffing and payroll. I would propose that you, the resort tax board, implement a 25% reduction in operational budget. This number is in line with the percentage cuts you have asked the conservation non-profits requesting funds from resort tax to incur.

Additionally, while the resort tax board often scrutinizes and critiques its applicants budgets and choices, I am unable to easily find any budget or P&L statement for the resort tax office and it's staffing/management costs. This seems like a large oversight that borders on hypocrisy.

2020 is unprecedented times, and we all need to look at sacrifices that can be made for the greater good of community.

Regards,

Chris Moon.

Chris Moon  
[moon.cd@gmail.com](mailto:moon.cd@gmail.com)

**From:** [Chris Samuels](#)  
**To:** [Big Sky Resort Tax District Information](#)  
**Subject:** Big Sky Chamber  
**Date:** Monday, June 8, 2020 11:30:02 AM

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To whom it may concern:

We support the Big Sky Chamber and the work they do in Big Sky.

Thank you,

Saddle Ridge Rentals

*Chris Samuels*  
Mobile: 615-497-3779



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**From:** [Chris Torsleff](#)  
**To:** [Big Sky Resort Tax District Information](#)  
**Subject:** Letter of Support  
**Date:** Monday, June 8, 2020 12:48:03 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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Dear Big Sky Resort Area District,

I am writing you to urge the support of the Big Sky Chamber's FY 21 Resort Tax application. The support the Big Sky Chamber provided our community in the Covid-19 crisis is the most recent example of how crucial this organization is in Big Sky. We rely on the support of the Big Sky Chamber and its staff in so many ways as we operate a small business and represent our community. We hope you value their contribution as much as we do and would love to see the resort tax dollars we contribute be used in a meaningful way to support our community. Thank you for your consideration.

All the best,



**Chris Torsleff**  
*Managing Director*  
406-404-7122

**From:** [Denise & Andrea BSA&T](#)  
**To:** [Big Sky Resort Tax District Information](#)  
**Subject:** Fund bsco, chamber, vbs  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 10, 2020 3:15:32 PM

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Hello,

Please accept this email for comments to support funding for organizations building community with long range planning and dedicated goals and direction. There are so many necessary projects for our community and the continued support of many organizations over the years has enabled many to confidently develop and grow their scope and strategic plans.

Please continue to fund BSCO and efforts for parks, trails and their strategic plans.

Please fund the chamber of commerce and visit big sky as organizations who support businesses who collect the tax.

Additionally, funding affordable, quality child care and educational programming should be a priority, such as Discovery Academy.

Please also evaluate the newly voted 1% for infrastructure and how it can help already established neighborhoods be part of this infrastructure, not just new hook ups. These established areas, especially in the south canyon area are already affordable housing areas and improvements to their infrastructure helps keep them affordable for families.

Thank you,  
Denise Wade

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [garontfab](#)  
**To:** [Big Sky Resort Area District Information](#)  
**Subject:** WMPAC SUPPORT  
**Date:** Sunday, May 31, 2020 1:50:54 AM

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Many in the Big Sky community have enjoyed and loved WMPAC. They have provided some of the most amazing and diverse performances I have ever seen. I wanted to move away from Big Sky because of the lack of art, yet now I find myself wanting to stay because of the amazing art. Please support WMPAC, they have been such an important and vital part of our community.

**From:** [Ryan Newcomb](#)  
**To:** [JeNelle Johnson](#); [Big Sky Resort Tax District Information](#); [Daniel Bierschwale](#)  
**Cc:** [Kristin Gardner](#); [Rick Donaldson](#); [Rich Chandler](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Petition of Support for the Gallatin River Task Force  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 10, 2020 1:28:30 PM  
**Attachments:** [image002.png](#)

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Danny and Resort Tax Board team—we wanted to make sure you saw this.

As I discussed with you a few weeks back about doing this—we have 146 community signatures in petition for full funding of the Gallatin River and our work.

We are so grateful for your staff and board team—and understand the immense pressures you all have right now in making these decisions. We do feel that funding the watershed work will help fulfill the top priorities of the community visioning priorities and goals—of which protecting our natural resources and water are paramount!

Thank you for your leadership in unprecedented times and for all you do each day. We hope we can see you in person again soon.

-Ryan



**RYAN M. NEWCOMB | Director of Development**

Gallatin River Task Force | o (406) 993 - 2519 | c (817) 905 - 7372

a PO Box 160513 | 32 Market Place, Unit 6 | Big Sky, MT 59716

[gallatinrivertaskforce.org](http://gallatinrivertaskforce.org) | 501c3 | TAX ID: 74-3127146



*Partnering with our greater community to lead conservation and inspire stewardship of the Gallatin River Watershed.*

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**From:** JeNelle Johnson <[jenelle9@hotmail.com](mailto:jenelle9@hotmail.com)>

**Date:** Wednesday, June 10, 2020 at 1:05 PM

**To:** Resort Tax Board <[info@resorttax.org](mailto:info@resorttax.org)>

**Cc:** Kristin Gardner <[kristin@gallatinrivertaskforce.org](mailto:kristin@gallatinrivertaskforce.org)>, Ryan Newcomb <[ryan@gallatinrivertaskforce.org](mailto:ryan@gallatinrivertaskforce.org)>, Rick Donaldson <[rdonaldson@3rivers.net](mailto:rdonaldson@3rivers.net)>, Rich Chandler <[rich.chandler@yellowstoneclub.com](mailto:rich.chandler@yellowstoneclub.com)>

**Subject:** Petition of Support for the Gallatin River Task Force

Dear Resort Tax Board,

On behalf of the Gallatin River Task Force, our board of directors and the hundreds of Big Sky Community Residents that are our actively engaged donors and supporters—we are submitting the attached petition results with 146 community signatures asking Resort Tax to fully fund the Gallatin River and the Task Force’s work. The exact language of the petition—with time stamps and names/info for individual community member signatures/names in the attached document is as following:

***By signing this petition, I am supporting the Big Sky Resort Tax board fully funding conservation and protection of the Gallatin River Watershed. The Gallatin is an invaluable resource, environmentally, socially, and economically. Through restoration projects, water-quality monitoring, and community education and outreach, the Gallatin River Task Force can ensure this resource stays clean and clear for future generations. Without a healthy Gallatin, our community could not be what it is today. Because of that fact, I support BSARD's full investment in the river's future. For a valid petition, please fill out the below information.***

We expect to continue to get signatures today and over the next week, and thank the Resort Tax for their attention to this petition—and thank you for all that each of you do for our community.

Sincerely,

JeNelle Johnson

# FULL NAME For a vali Timestamp

Isabella Vendramin 2020/06/08 1:54:15 PM CDT  
Catherine A Drook 2020/06/08 1:55:15 PM CDT  
JeNelle Johnson 2020/06/08 1:56:57 PM CDT  
Rob McRae 2020/06/08 1:58:48 PM CDT  
neil daviess 2020/06/08 2:00:01 PM CDT  
Fred Orgas 2020/06/08 2:03:43 PM CDT  
Jana Norton 2020/06/08 2:27:46 PM CDT  
Robert Norton 2020/06/08 2:28:41 PM CDT  
LEW WALLACE JACOB 2020/06/08 2:34:01 PM CDT  
Pam McCurley 2020/06/08 2:44:21 PM CDT  
Michael Jacquard 2020/06/08 2:53:49 PM CDT  
Madison Lawton 2020/06/08 3:09:29 PM CDT  
Jason Luchini 2020/06/08 3:19:41 PM CDT  
Woody Burt 2020/06/08 4:07:51 PM CDT  
Jon Dudley 2020/06/08 4:20:44 PM CDT  
Debbie Crowther 2020/06/08 5:03:13 PM CDT  
Kevin Daily 2020/06/08 5:08:33 PM CDT  
Don & Caroline Siels 2020/06/08 5:10:05 PM CDT  
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Kim small 2020/06/08 5:52:11 PM CDT  
John Blangiardo 2020/06/09 10:50:00 AM CDT  
Stephen 2020/06/09 5:07:56 AM CDT  
Lisa Meredith Shick 2020/06/09 5:09:09 AM CDT  
Eric Ladd 2020/06/09 7:24:08 AM CDT  
Casey Salestrom 2020/06/09 8:47:51 AM CDT  
Dylan Cressy 2020/06/09 9:02:27 AM CDT  
Rene Kraus 2020/06/09 9:41:11 AM CDT  
Danielle Way 2020/06/09 9:57:58 AM CDT  
Jason Mittelstaedt 2020/06/09 11:14:38 AM CDT  
Boyd Teegarden 2020/06/09 10:25:23 PM CDT  
Rob McRar 2020/06/09 10:50:00 AM CDT  
Justin Hotovy 2020/06/09 10:50:18 AM CDT  
Patricia Krause I live 2020/06/09 10:56:23 AM CDT  
Shannon Collins 2020/06/09 11:14:38 AM CDT  
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Suzanne Hennessy 2020/06/08 3:22:15 PM CDT  
Alan Johnson 2020/06/08 3:24:42 PM CDT  
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Mark Poertner 2020/06/09 4:49:57 PM CDT  
Heather Budd 2020/06/08 1:51:31 PM CDT  
Andrew Hengel 2020/06/08 1:58:20 PM CDT  
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Jacque Poertner 2020/06/08 2:37:21 PM CDT  
BRODERICK DONALDS 2020/06/08 2:56:04 PM CDT  
Emily O'Connor 2020/06/08 3:36:33 PM CDT  
Heather Budd 2020/06/08 7:08:03 PM CDT  
Cj radtk 2020/06/08 11:09:34 PM CDT

# Username By checking a box below (check all that a Your ZIP COD Your CELL PH I certify that I am the person above the and the information above is my own.

ivendramin@ Community Member: Big Sky resident or  
cadrook@att. Community Member: Big Sky resident or  
jenelle9@hotmail Community Member: Big Sky resident or  
rob@highline Community Member: Big Sky resident or  
mtbracerx@f Community Member: Big Sky resident or  
fred.bigsky@ Community Member: Big Sky resident or  
bnjmail@sbq Community Member: Big Sky resident or  
bnoorstl@sbq Community Member: Big Sky resident or  
jay.jacobs@r Community Member: Big Sky resident or  
mccurleynom Community Member: Big Sky resident or  
jacquardmich Community Member: Big Sky resident or  
madison.lawt Community Member: Big Sky resident or  
JayLuchini@y Community Member: Big Sky resident or  
bisonrun@a Community Member: Big Sky resident or  
jbdudley@a Community Member: Big Sky resident or  
debcrow@3ri Community Member: Big Sky resident or  
daily.show@ Community Member: Big Sky resident or  
Sielschot2@a Community Member: Big Sky resident or  
hennessym14 Community Member: Big Sky resident or  
smallkim@hc Community Member: Big Sky resident or  
braces4ever0 Community Member: Big Sky resident or  
sshick1@aol. Community Member: Big Sky resident or  
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casey.salestr Community Member: Big Sky resident or  
dylancressy5 Community Member: Big Sky resident or  
renekraus10C Community Member: Big Sky resident or  
myway2222@ Community Member: Big Sky resident or  
jmittelstaedt Community Member: Big Sky resident or  
bteegarden@ Community Member: Big Sky resident or  
rob@highline Community Member: Big Sky resident or  
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krausep@ctv Community Member: Big Sky resident or  
sebcollins@r Community Member: Big Sky resident or  
jmittelstaedt Community Member: Big Sky resident or  
casey.salestr Community Member: Big Sky resident or  
lmfcmf@aol. Community Member: Big Sky resident or  
jbdudley@a Community Member: Big Sky resident or  
capk455@aol Community Member: Big Sky resident or  
whitewater@ Community Member: Big Sky resident or  
lmfcmf@aol. Community Member: Big Sky resident or  
cwhall23@mi Community Member: Big Sky resident or  
lindabsmt@g Community Member: Big Sky resident or  
carrierbryan3 Community Member: Big Sky resident or  
peacepasta3 Community Member: Big Sky resident or  
snowsquidm Community Member: Big Sky resident or  
michelle.krist Community Member: Big Sky resident or  
rich@richadd Community Member: Big Sky resident or  
mccurleyflyfi Community Member: Big Sky resident or  
sixonmd@g Community Member: Big Sky resident or  
bigskylvr@a Community Member: Big Sky resident or  
josephcalto@ Community Member: Big Sky resident or  
lindabsmt@g Community Member: Big Sky resident or  
bmcfuke@ic Community Member: Big Sky resident or  
hanleyconsul Community Member: Big Sky resident or  
debatkins5@ Community Member: Big Sky resident or  
matt.walker@ Community Member: Big Sky resident or  
bemannebad Community Member: Big Sky resident or  
mdmannebac Community Member: Big Sky resident or  
granthilton33 Community Member: Big Sky resident or  
jason@bigsky Community Member: Big Sky resident or  
jason@bigsky Community Member: Big Sky resident or  
FISH@WILDT Community Member: Big Sky resident or  
betseyfrench Community Member: Big Sky resident or  
docom2@aol Community Member: Big Sky resident or  
bsteffens@n Community Member: Big Sky resident or  
diana@smtn Community Member: Big Sky resident or  
jeannelimoge Community Member: Big Sky resident or  
kass.stearns1 Community Member: Big Sky resident or  
matmo35@r Community Member: Big Sky resident or  
krjohnsonna Community Member: Big Sky resident or  
skycrest1702 Community Member: Big Sky resident or  
barbvaner@ Community Member: Big Sky resident or  
bethany\_arer Community Member: Big Sky resident or  
spiramity@gr Community Member: Big Sky resident or  
bradlartigue@ Community Member: Big Sky resident or  
pj.bell@yellow Community Member: Big Sky resident or  
kelsey.rossier Community Member: Big Sky resident or  
KEVIN@ACEB Community Member: Big Sky resident or  
americanmog Community Member: Big Sky resident or  
windfeather7 Community Member: Big Sky resident or  
hengandr.ah Community Member: Big Sky resident or  
cadry.jeff@gr Community Member: Big Sky resident or  
jacquepoertn Community Member: Big Sky resident or  
rdonaldson@ Community Member: Big Sky resident or  
emilypallo@g Community Member: Big Sky resident or  
windfeather7 Community Member: Big Sky resident or  
cjradtke@hotmail Community Member: Big Sky resident or

59716 9144004635 Yes  
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59716 406-529-4815 Yes  
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59718 4062090661 Yes  
59716 4065703125 Yes  
59716 2086041520 Yes  
59716 6512717049 Yes  
59718 4065391572 Yes  
59730 2487364349 Yes  
59716 4065488111 Yes  
59716 4065703125 Yes  
59716 Yes



Ennion Williams	2020/06/09 12:05:07 AM CDT	ennionwilliam Community Member: Big Sky resident or	59716 4065797094 Yes
William F. Collins	2020/06/09 12:06:35 AM CDT	bc@yellowstr Community Member: Big Sky resident or	59716 4065390268 Yes
William F. Collins	2020/06/09 1:08:12 AM CDT	bc@yellowstr Community Member: Big Sky resident or	59716 4065390268 Yes
Mandy Hotovy	2020/06/09 10:57:32 AM CDT	vb5615@hot Community Member: Big Sky resident or	59716 Yes
Lauren M Knox	2020/06/09 2:09:57 PM CDT	lauren.knox@ Community Member: Big Sky resident or	59716 4065399190 Yes
Vicenza A Nordahl	2020/06/08 10:15:57 PM CDT	vicky@lonepr Community Member: Big Sky resident or	59716 406-579-6298 Yes
Jeremy Harder	2020/06/09 7:11:26 PM CDT	jharder@bssc Community Member: Big Sky resident or	59730 406581-3307 Yes
Kristin Gardner	2020/06/09 7:12:05 PM CDT	kristin.k.gard Community Member: Big Sky resident or	59730 4065392350 Yes
Vanessa Wilson	2020/06/09 7:27:47 PM CDT	vwilson@bssi Community Member: Big Sky resident or	59730 4065707278 Yes
Kristin Gardner	2020/06/10 11:15:51 AM CDT	kristin.k.gard Community Member: Big Sky resident or	59730 4065392350 Yes
Jon Clark Holtzman	2020/06/08 2:51:32 PM CDT	jcholtzman@ Former chairman and founder of the Gall	30642 (406) 570-512 Yes
Albert Lockwood	2020/06/08 5:36:20 PM CDT	aflockw@net Former homeowner; regular visitor and c	85749 520-612-7391 Yes
Brooke Helstrom	2020/06/08 2:30:41 PM CDT	bhelstrom@ Gallatin County resident	59715 Yes
Nicole Lana Creer	2020/06/08 2:31:37 PM CDT	creernicole@ Gallatin County resident	59716 2083605113 Yes
Mike Harrelson	2020/06/08 2:32:54 PM CDT	mike_harrels@ Gallatin County resident	59715 4065812879 Yes
Rachel Hicks	2020/06/08 2:43:01 PM CDT	rachelhicksd@ Gallatin County resident	59715 Yes
Michael Rotar	2020/06/08 2:43:23 PM CDT	mike.rotar@r Gallatin County resident	59715 4065701035 Yes
Heidi Weckbacher	2020/06/08 2:55:21 PM CDT	hweckbacher Gallatin County resident	59716 6178515588 Yes
Zachary Waterman	2020/06/08 3:06:59 PM CDT	zwaterman@ Gallatin County resident	59718 2085156719 Yes
Tamara Joy Meyer	2020/06/08 3:14:43 PM CDT	tamarajoyme Gallatin County resident	59715 4065810431 Yes
Taylor Jones	2020/06/08 3:20:19 PM CDT	jonestay@urr Gallatin County resident	59715 5129682324 Yes
Emma Brown	2020/06/08 5:27:18 PM CDT	emmab725@ Gallatin County resident	59715 Yes
Jackson St Clair	2020/06/08 3:39:58 PM CDT	jacksonstclai Gallatin County resident	59715 5092307329 Yes
Tamara Estensen	2020/06/08 5:11:12 PM CDT	tammy@clas Gallatin County resident	59718 4066002268 Yes
Connor M Flanagan	2020/06/08 5:39:04 PM CDT	connor.flanag Gallatin County resident	59760 Yes
Dale Des Enfants	2020/06/08 8:05:30 PM CDT	backflipgirl00 Gallatin County resident	59715 Yes
Joe Booth	2020/06/08 8:41:17 PM CDT	jbooth170@g Gallatin County resident	94175 7070809700 Yes
Catherine Nelson	2020/06/08 10:13:51 PM CDT	cnhobbit@gn Gallatin County resident	59715 406 585-8025 Yes
Dale Des Enfants	2020/06/09 12:03:56 AM CDT	backflipgirl00 Gallatin County resident	59715 Yes
Kasey Welles	2020/06/09 8:13:40 AM CDT	kasey.welles@ Gallatin County resident	59715 406-591-794C Yes
Laurie Stahle	2020/06/09 9:34:43 AM CDT	laurie.stahle@ Gallatin County resident	59715 4065399175 Yes
Agnes Van Meter	2020/06/09 4:41:26 PM CDT	aggie.vanmet Gallatin County resident	59718 6504778089 Yes
patricia hedrick	2020/06/09 10:34:10 PM CDT	hedpat@gma Gallatin County resident	59715 4065992554 Yes
Jeff Dunn	2020/06/10 11:24:04 AM CDT	aguaverde08@ Gallatin County resident	59718 4065790516 Yes
Kris Kruid	2020/06/08 3:10:43 PM CDT	kriskruid@gnr Gallatin Gateway or Upper Gallatin reside	59730 646-662-3941 Yes
Michelle Gatewood	2020/06/09 2:32:08 PM CDT	ladybrightmo Gallatin Gateway or Upper Gallatin reside	59730 406 579 2275 Yes
Nancy Hagen Stage	2020/06/08 2:02:35 PM CDT	nhagen1001@ Gallatin Gateway or Upper Gallatin reside	59730 574-457-6155 Yes
Mike Richter	2020/06/08 2:05:51 PM CDT	miker700@gr Gallatin Gateway or Upper Gallatin reside	59730 Yes
Kenneth Ketchum	2020/06/09 2:30:38 PM CDT	ksketchummt Gallatin Gateway or Upper Gallatin reside	59730 9499390941 Yes
David Neal	2020/06/08 1:56:07 PM CDT	davetneal@g Madison County resident	59729 4065705656 Yes
dokson arvanites	2020/06/09 6:44:57 AM CDT	dokarvanites@ Madison County resident	597299142 6262980946 Yes
Katherine king-Goodr	2020/06/09 10:38:22 AM CDT	skiingmidwife Madison County resident	59716 4232905996 Yes
Zenalous Bennis	2020/06/09 7:17:27 AM CDT	zjb1932@gm: Property owner in Big Sky since 1973	34134 612-965-0772 Yes
Susan vendramin	2020/06/08 3:18:57 PM CDT	susanvendrar Visitor	10533 9142614183 Yes
Susan vendramin	2020/06/08 7:18:33 PM CDT	susanvendrar Visitor	10533 9142614183 Yes
Erin Ogram	2020/06/08 2:40:02 PM CDT	eogram5@gn Work Force: Big Sky employee, employer	59716 2087558092 Yes
Katherine A Foley	2020/06/08 5:44:06 PM CDT	katefoles98@ Work Force: Big Sky employee, employer	59716 4014868680 Yes
Amy Wiezalis	2020/06/08 8:06:42 PM CDT	wiezmt@gm: Work Force: Big Sky employee, employer	59716 4065709631 Yes
Karen Burfening	2020/06/09 10:05:10 AM CDT	karen.burfeni Work Force: Big Sky employee, employer	59718 4065804261 Yes
Ryan M Newcomb	2020/06/08 1:42:12 PM CDT	ryan.m.newc@ Work Force: Big Sky employee, employer	59718 8179057372 Yes
Rich Chandler	2020/06/08 1:48:01 PM CDT	rich.chandler: Work Force: Big Sky employee, employer	59714 4065394185 Yes
Ellis L Janssen	2020/06/08 2:00:36 PM CDT	eljanssen@h Work Force: Big Sky employee, employer	59715 2537098698 Yes
Nathan Andrew Johns	2020/06/08 2:08:25 PM CDT	nate78@johnsc Work Force: Big Sky employee, employer	59714 406-209-1425 Yes
Olivia Regnier	2020/06/08 2:22:38 PM CDT	olivia.regnier Work Force: Big Sky employee, employer	59718 2487193346 Yes
Janet Earl	2020/06/08 2:30:57 PM CDT	janetearyl@gn Work Force: Big Sky employee, employer	59772 3104665448 Yes
Ryan Hamilton	2020/06/08 3:54:26 PM CDT	ryan@bigskyt Work Force: Big Sky employee, employer	59715 406-580-226C Yes
Richard McElowney	2020/06/08 5:00:08 PM CDT	rmceldowney Work Force: Big Sky employee, employer	59715 406-599-2138 Yes
David Tucker	2020/06/10 12:30:06 PM CDT	davidtucker2: Work Force: Big Sky employee, employer	59715 Yes

**From:** [Heather Budd](#)  
**To:** [Big Sky Resort Tax District Information](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Support for the Gallatin River  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 10, 2020 11:28:41 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

---

I should also include that I am a current Board Member of the Gallatin River Task Force. Thank you - Heather

## Heather Budd | CFO

**From:** Heather Budd  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 10, 2020 11:25 AM  
**To:** INFO <info@resorttax.org>  
**Subject:** Support for the Gallatin River

To the members of the Resort Tax Board:

People are coming to Big Sky, to visit and to live. The growth here is exponential and continues despite Covid and quite possibly as a result of Covid to escape cities and be able to connect, recreate and get outdoors in these uncertain times. The amount of real estate placed under contract in the last several weeks is massive. It is not solely an advertising campaign that draws people to our location. The Gallatin River is a big reason that many come to visit and live in Big Sky and the Gallatin Valley and the pressure of this growth is a threat to the river's character and health.

The Gallatin River is an economic driver and a foundation for connection and recreation for this community and all who come here. It is the first thing that people experience as they travel along — for over an hour when driving in from north or South, a first impression of our town.

I urge you to fund the Gallatin River Task Force's application and recognize the important work that has been done (much of which has been in partnership with BSRAD) and the important work that needs to continue to protect and enhance this valuable natural resource.

As a past member of the Board, I understand the complexities of the allocation process and do not envy your responsibility at this difficult time. I thank you for your service.

Sincerely,  
Heather Budd

## Heather Budd | CFO

Highline Partners, LTD.  
75 Center Lane Suite B  
PO Box 161618  
Big Sky, MT. 59716  
Fax (406) 995-2125  
Mobile (406) 570-3125  
[heather@highline-partners.com](mailto:heather@highline-partners.com)



**From:** [Jack McGuire](#)  
**To:** [Big Sky Resort Tax District Information](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Gallatin River Task Force  
**Date:** Monday, June 8, 2020 1:47:23 PM

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**From:** Jack McGuire <jackmcguire39@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 8, 2020 2:42:52 PM  
**To:** info@resorttax.com <info@resorttax.com>  
**Subject:** Gallatin River Task Force

Sorry but the board should prioritize its budget to emphasize covid19, affordable housing, police and fire.

Jack McGuire  
174 Chief Joseph Trail

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**From:** [jakes](#)  
**To:** [Big Sky Resort Area District Information](#)  
**Subject:** Big Sky Chamber  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 3, 2020 4:12:52 PM

---

Dear Board,

I would like to ask for your continued support of the Big Sky Chamber of Commerce and Visit Big Sky because they are going to be the shakers and movers in getting this tourist traffic moving again which will provide the resources necessary to be taxed.

Thanks,

Jake Grimm

Jake's Horses, Inc.

**From:** [jamey.cunningham](#)  
**To:** [Big Sky Resort Tax District Information](#)  
**Subject:** Resort Tax Funds for Discovery  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 10, 2020 8:41:31 AM

---

To all those this may concern:

I just wanted to let you know how important and appreciated the resort tax funds are to my family and the Discovery Academy. My son will be entering kindergarten this coming school year. This is his 3rd year at Discovery and the Early Childhood Program. The scholarship we are awarded each year is the only means we have to enroll him in the school. The Early Childhood Program is such a wonderful foundation for these little ones. Gratitude and kindness are the values instilled in their brains and bodies. These are the thoughts and actions our world needs now more than ever. These children are our future and the Discovery Academy does a fantastic job of giving them the start they deserve. I wish every child could have the opportunity to start their school years in such a program. Please consider the Discovery Academy for the funds they are asking for. Myself, my husband, my son and many other family's will directly benefit from your decision. My husband and I have lived and worked in Big Sky for 14 & 15 years. We are the workforce of this town that is getting pushed out from all directions as the cost of living here exponentially rises. Please help us afford Discovery next year. Thank You!!

Regards, Jamey Cunningham

**From:** [JeNelle Johnson](#)  
**To:** [Big Sky Resort Tax District Information](#)  
**Subject:** Letter in support of GRTF  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 16, 2020 10:15:35 AM

---

Dear Resort Tax Board,

Only 7.2% of 2021 resort tax funds have been awarded to environmental/conservation groups. In “Our Big Sky: Community Vision and Strategy,” members of our community gave EQUAL importance to Our People, Our Character, Our Recreation, Our Environment. Of the 150+ projects written in by community members, environmental conservation projects ranked 2nd.

It was reported in the Big Sky Chamber Economic Profile 2019 that 47% of Big Sky residents agree that the environment is “what makes Big Sky, Big Sky” (35% said society and 19% infrastructure).

Any way you slice it, our natural environment is very important to members of our community. Funding for environmental and conservation groups in Big Sky should be more aligned with the values of our community, especially considering the impacts of massive development with minimal oversight, climate change and water scarcity.

The recent contamination of the primary water source for residents of West Yellowstone shows how important clean water is to the health and well being of our communities. Drinking water could not be consumed and all restaurants in West were closed until it was determined the water was safe for consumption.

I encourage you to fully fund the Operations request submitted by GRTF, which would put environmental/conservation funding at 8.4%

Thank you for your service and for your consideration.

JeNelle Johnson

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Jody Dan](#)  
**To:** [Big Sky Resort Area District Information](#)  
**Subject:** I support the Gallatin Invasive Species Alliance!  
**Date:** Monday, June 1, 2020 1:58:19 PM

---

Please continue your support of Gallatin Invasive Species Alliance. I've learned so much from their sponsored hikes and Jen has been to my house teaching me about the vegetation on my property.

Thanks you,  
Jody Dan

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Knapton, John](#)  
**To:** [Big Sky Resort Tax District Information](#)  
**Subject:** Support for Bear Smart Big Sky  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 10, 2020 10:32:04 AM

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Dear BSRAD Board,

Please support Bear Smart Big Sky with resort tax dollars. This program is very important to our community and resort as the program works hard to educate residents of our community and visiting guests in the importance of being bear aware, minimizing bear attractants, and teaching best practices. The program has converted over 70% of trash cans in our area to bear resistant cans. As the population of Big Sky has grown, the instances of bear interactions has remained flat year to year or slightly decreased. The program needs support as we need to get our trash 100% bear resistant and reduce our number of bear interactions year to year rather than remain flat.

It is important that we as a community minimize our impact to our environment and wildlife that surround us.

Thank you for your support!

John

**John Knapton**  
**Mountain Manager**

Big Sky Resort  
50 Big Sky Resort Road | PO Box 160001 | Big Sky, MT 59716  
(C) 406-580-4534 (D) 406-995-5585 | (F) 406-995-5083  
[www.bigskyresort.com](http://www.bigskyresort.com)

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LIVE BIG



**From:** [JOHN POHL](#)  
**To:** [Big Sky Resort Tax District Information](#)  
**Subject:** Support BSCHT  
**Date:** Thursday, June 11, 2020 6:54:52 PM

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I am writing this to encourage you to support the activity and services BSCHT provides. As a long time property owner and having children who worked fulltime at the resort for several years I cannot emphasize enough the need to continue to support their work. Without their initiative, the quality of life and difficulty in attracting persons to make Big Sky what it is, will be near impossible. The need for affordable and stable work for housing is crucial to healthy and successful communities.

I speak not only as an owner, but also as someone who believes strongly in their work. So much so that we have partnered with them to provide housing for exactly this purpose. But it is not enough. The community needs to continue to support their invaluable work and ensure that they are funded!

Thank you for listening and providing them support.

John Pohl FGS  
Tel: 206.362.2430  
[www.3creekdev.com](http://www.3creekdev.com)  
[www.geophotography.org](http://www.geophotography.org)

**From:** [Kate Ketschek](#)  
**To:** [Big Sky Resort Tax District Information](#)  
**Subject:** Letters of support  
**Date:** Monday, June 8, 2020 9:29:57 AM

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Thank you all for your service to our community. Your brain power, experience, thoughtfulness and long-term vision are so appreciated. I know your role takes an enormous amount of time and is very important to many of our local organizations - THANK YOU.

I'd like to quickly voice my support for the following applicants:

**BSSHA** - my 8 yo daughter and I both found ice hockey 2 seasons ago (I know, I'm a little late to the party at 45). BSSHA has built a top-notch program, and the volunteers are very dedicated. They put in countless hours to set up, maintain, and tear down that rink, along with raising funds to keep it going. It's a great asset for visitors and locals.

**Big Sky Chamber** - they've really stepped up during COVID to provide timely resources and updates to its members.

**Big Sky Food Bank** - I think we all have seen how much our community needs it.

**BSCO** - I'm vice chair, so you know I support this organization. Ciara has an incredible staff who have really stepped up during COVID to bring all community resources together, create more programming, and keep us connected. Public spaces and trails have seen a dramatic increase in traffic during COVID, representing their importance and why we need to continue to maintain them.

**Big Sky Fire** - as a former volunteer and a current spouse of a firefighter, I support the work these men and women do.

**The Sheriffs** - hearing that there are times in the middle of the night where there is no coverage, is concerning. Whether one of us needs them in a crisis, or considering my husband and fellow firefighters that may have to respond to a potentially dangerous situation w/o police backup is an uneasy feeling.

Thank you, best of luck this week.

Kate Ketschek  
Revolution House Media  
603-828-1050

## RECENT CLIENT NEWS

#Adventureinplace with [NEMO](#).

Got extra time at home these days? [Gear Junkie](#) shares Spring tent care tips.

While you #adventureinplace, watch [Chef Jennifer Scism](#) teach [Outside's](#) Wes Siler how to cook a gourmet meal over the campfire.

June 3, 2020

Dear Big Sky Resort Area District board members:

I am writing as a board member of Visit Big Sky, and also a worker in Big Sky for over 10 years, to express my support of the funding for Visit Big Sky. I currently work for Lone Mountain Land Company, and we work in collaboration with VBS to leverage our private dollars to contribute to marketing the Big Sky area. Lone Mountain Land Company, along with many other businesses in the Big Sky area are contributing millions of private dollars towards marketing the Big Sky area. We are recognizing that success creates more success, understanding that we all need to work together as a community to help each other be successful.

Visit Big Sky is currently working to enhance the website [www.visitbigsky.com](http://www.visitbigsky.com) and the informational app for locals and tourists. When the website is delivered, it will be an incredible tool for people seeking information on dining, lodging, area events, and local businesses. The funding from the state alone doesn't allow for the marketing to be at the level it should be, and the resort tax funding will enhance this community-wide benefit.

We understand there has been tremendous growth in the community in the last decade, and in order for businesses to thrive, we need continual and thoughtful growth of tourism and residents. The Resort Tax revenue will continue to increase if we have more visitors and residents, and further business success will also help to address the growing pains that face our community. The core of marketing is to continue to promote, even when you have the success and growth that you are seeking. Marketing enhances awareness at the current time and creates credibility when marketing presence is consistent over time. We must continue to market the Big Sky area.

When tourists enjoy their visit to Big Sky, more will repeat visit and also many will move here to call this place home and invest further in the community. We, as a community, can jointly work towards being a thriving year-round community and not a seasonal community. VBS's Marketing of the area and informational tools will be key to further Big Sky's vibrancy.

As a marketing professional in the area, I want to express my support of the Visit Big Sky board's marketing efforts.

Sincerely,

Krista M. Traxler  
Vice President of Marketing  
Lone Mountain Land Company  
[ktraxler@lonemountainland.com](mailto:ktraxler@lonemountainland.com)

June 3, 2020

Big Sky Resort Tax Board  
11 Lone Peak Drive, Suite 204  
Big Sky, MT 59716

VIA EMAIL: [info@resorttax.org](mailto:info@resorttax.org)

**RE: Letter of Support for FY21 VISIT BIG SKY Resort Tax Application from Big Sky Vacation Rentals**

Dear Big Sky Resort Tax Board Members,

Visit Big Sky, as the community's official Destination Management and Marketing Organization, leads the development and marketing of authentic tourism experiences, through research and stakeholder collaboration to grow Big Sky's economy while balancing the need to sustain quality of life for its residents.

Tourism is the number one economic driver for the Big Sky community, and as a tourism stakeholder located in the BSRAD, Visit Big Sky's work is vital to me and my business because we depend on visitors to occupy our vacation rentals during their visits to our community. Given the impact on Covid-19 on our business and others, increasing the number of visitors to Big Sky will remain a critical priority. An increase in overall visitor traffic would benefit all businesses like ours. We believe in the power of the marketing that Visit Big Sky can provide to all lodging partners and businesses in our community and hope Resort Tax will continue to support these efforts.

Resort Tax funding supports public transportation systems; tourism development; and other services that provide for the public health, safety, and welfare within the BSRAD. Visit Big Sky's request fits within this purpose of the District's Ordinance, benefitting the Big Sky community at large, not one specific person or one specific business. Visit Big Sky is the engine that fuels Resort Tax collections. No other organization requesting funds drives revenue for the Resort Tax. Without Visit Big Sky's continued support, the engine will stall as has been illustrated time and time again in numerous destinations throughout the United States, from Washington state to Colorado to Florida.

Visit Big Sky's ***Imagine Big Sky 2023 Tourism Master Plan*** focuses its work in these three areas:

- 1) To DEVELOP the destination, specifically a sustainable summer outdoor recreation experience to match that of *The Biggest Skiing in America*®,
- 2) To PROMOTE the destination BEYOND world-class winter, and
- 3) To LEAD the destination as well as the greater tourism collective throughout the state of Montana.

No other entity serving Big Sky's tourism economy is focusing on the destination as a whole, but rather on capturing individual visitation for a specific business. Please support Visit Big Sky's F21 Resort Tax Application with a full allocation as requested to ensure the continued growth and sustainability of our local tourism economy and Resort Tax funding mechanism.

Respectfully,

Kirsten King, Owner

Big Sky Vacation Rentals

**From:** [Lauren Knox](#)  
**To:** [Big Sky Resort Tax District Information](#)  
**Cc:** [Jesse Knox \(jesse.knox77@gmail.com\)](mailto:jesse.knox77@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Big Sky Discovery Academy - Tuition Assistance Response - Please reconsider  
**Date:** Monday, June 15, 2020 4:51:51 PM

---

Dear Big Sky Area Resort Tax Board,

The Knox family kindly asks and strongly urges the BSRAD to reconsider their response to the Big Sky Discovery Academy's request for tuition assistance.

Discovery provides academic preschool/child care programming that is essential to meeting the needs of the families of Big Sky. We are concerned that if they aren't able to fully fund their tuition assistance program that many families will have to reconsider their ability to have their children attend and may also have to reconsider where they live. Child care outside of Discovery and Morningstar in our town is extremely difficult to find for an affordable rate and even at exorbitant rates, has been proven to be unreliable in many cases. We consider ourselves very lucky and are grateful to have the opportunity to send our daughter (and previously our son) to preschool at Discovery. We would like to know that other families will have the opportunity if they chose to do so.

It is extremely important to us (and our community) that you reconsider the full request for assistance.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Lauren, Jesse, Jude and Cora Knox

Lauren Knox  
Yellowstone Club Sales  
[Lauren.knox@yellowstoneclub.com](mailto:Lauren.knox@yellowstoneclub.com)  
Mobile: 406.539.9190  
Office: 406.993.7010

**From:** [Feher, Madeleine](#)  
**To:** [Big Sky Resort Tax District Information](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Resort Tax Support Letter/Discovery School  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 10, 2020 1:44:49 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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Dear Resort Tax District Board of Directors:

First and foremost, I would like to thank you in advance for your time and consideration of my letter of support for Discovery School's scholarship program.

I know you are faced with many tough decisions in the weeks ahead in which you will focus on the critical programs and organizations so vital to our community. I hope you see the value in funding Discovery School's Scholarship fund as it has proven to represent much more than an educational establishment to my family. It has provided my two young girls with support beyond anything I could have hoped for over the past few months of virtual learning. The teachers, the school leaders, the administrator---all of those who make Discovery school so outstanding have gone above and beyond to 'normalize' as best possible an end to the school year which was anything but normal. It has reaffirmed once again why I value the time my children spends with these educators.

I know that every parent wants the best for their children. For our family, the support we receive from Discovery helps us achieve that. I thank you for your consideration of scholarship funding which makes our attendance possible.

Warm regards,  
Madeleine Feher

**Madeleine Feher**

Huntley Lodge General Manager | Big Sky Resort  
Licensed Property Manager  
50 Big Sky Resort Road | PO Box 160001 | Big Sky, MT 59716  
(TF) 800-548-4486 | (D) 406-995-5875 | (F) 406-995-5001  
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LIVE BIG



**From:** [Mary Wheeler](#)  
**To:** [Big Sky Resort Tax District Information](#)  
**Subject:** Community Funding Request: Big Sky Community Housing Trust  
**Date:** Monday, June 8, 2020 4:48:52 PM

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Dear Big Sky Resort Tax Board:

As you undertake considerations across the board for a multitude of worthy organizations and requests, I hope that you will look favorably upon the requests before you for continued support of the Big Sky Community Housing Trust.

Those working in seasonal resort towns face many innate challenges in trying to qualify for loans to purchase a starter condo or home, and the current COVID pandemic has further impacted our workforce community members' ability to afford the minimum down payment amounts necessary to get a home loan. Interrupted employment and the uncertainty of future full-time, reliable income sources, has created another barrier to a buyer's ability to borrow, buy and to stay in Big Sky. The long term rental market has been drastically decreased overall and what remains available for rent has seen a considerable increase in rental rates.

Stability for our workforce members is important to the overall health of our Big Sky community.

Helping these locals close the gap between what they have in savings (which lately has been diminished, in many cases) and what the bank requires to be put down on a loan, is essential to home ownership. People want to stay in Big Sky, but the lack of long term housing (and ultimately, the ability to own property here) is often the factor that requires them to leave. The Housing Trust's structure provides that they recoup the down payment assistance funds when the property is eventually sold, is unprecedented and those funds may be offered again to eligible buyers down the road. Unlike many Resort Tax requests before you that have a one-time use, these funds will continue to benefit full time Big Sky employees into the future, who are looking to stay and to own here. The Housing Trust's format of limiting property appreciation within their developments, ensures that less-than-market priced properties will remain controlled into the future...another first for Big Sky. Available property for further community housing projects is scarce and is expensive, so support of the Housing Trust for purchase of land for future projects is also important. Even if the larger employers provide temporary or seasonal housing, if we want to retain good people in our community, we need more projects offered by the Housing Trust and like entities for entry level home ownership.

I have helped many first time homebuyers purchase properties throughout our area over the years, and have personally seen the difference that down payment assistance has made in getting buyers into home ownership in Big Sky's challenging market. There are buyers that have been on the MeadowView Condos' waitlist for 2+ years to get into a studio or a 2-bedroom unit in this next phase, and the difference in doing so may now be whether or not there is assistance available to them, as their available down payment funds have diminished during the shutdown and resulting losses of employment. The cost of living is high here for most of the wages tendered and traditional home loans with 20% down payments are out of reach for most of these buyers, even at controlled purchase prices. I hope that you will prioritize this funding as a basic infrastructure expense, especially given current circumstances, and that you will find a way to support and fund the important requests of our Big Sky Community Housing Trust.

Thank you all for your time and for your countless hours of service to our community on the Resort Tax Board.

Sincerely,

Mary Wheeler, Broker, GRI, CRS, ABR, SFR PureWest  
Christie's International Real Estate – Big Sky 32-year  
resident, Big Sky

**From:** [matthew kendziorski](#)  
**To:** [Big Sky Resort Area District Information](#)  
**Subject:** Transportation Q and A  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 3, 2020 7:50:43 PM

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Hello,

I would like to urge the resort tax board to stop asking for a fee on the local buses. The local community is a main user of this system. We already pay resort tax everyday. The bus system is necessary infrastructure which is why the resort tax was formed to fund. Most resort buses I have used in other areas were free locally. I also agree we should reward locals for being responsible and using the bus for their transportation needs. Thank you for your time.

Matt Kendziorski

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)



**From:** [Matt Walker](#)  
**To:** [Big Sky Resort Tax District Information](#)  
**Subject:** Support  
**Date:** Monday, June 8, 2020 9:54:12 AM

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To Whom It May Concern,

I would like to voice my support of the Big Sky Chamber of Commerce's FY21 Application. This past year myself and 15 or so of my peers were able to participate in the Chamber's inaugural Leadership Big Sky program. This program met on a monthly basis starting back in the fall and each month we met with leaders in our community to learn how Big Sky operates. We had engaging talks with folks like Brian Sprenger, the Bozeman Airport Director, Anne Marie Mistretta, the Chair of Historic Crail Ranch Conversation, Ciara Wolfe, Executive Director of the Big Sky Community Organization, Taylor Middleton, CEO of Big Sky Resort, as well as many other amazing community leaders. We were able to candidly engage with these people and learn how their organizations have helped shape the community we live in and how they are planning for the future of Big Sky. Leadership Big Sky also formed a book club where we read several leadership books like Multipliers: How the Best Leaders Make Everyone Smarter by Liz Wiseman and Power Questions: Build Relationships, Win New Business, and Influence Others by Andrew Sobel and Jerold Panas. These books as well as others helped us learn about what it takes to be the next generation of leaders in our community and the books were provided by the Chamber as part of their expanding community library. Although our class was interrupted this Spring by the coronavirus we are looking to resume class this month and move towards graduation in the summer. It is my wish that the Chamber's FY21 Application is considered in its entirety to provide programs like Leadership Big Sky for years and decades to come.

Thank you and best wishes,  
Matt



**YELLOWSTONE CLUB**

**Matt Walker**

Sales Associate

e: [matt.walker@yellowstoneclub.com](mailto:matt.walker@yellowstoneclub.com)

c: 406-220-2685

[www.yellowstoneclub.com](http://www.yellowstoneclub.com)

**From:** [Pr. Miriam Schmidt](#)  
**To:** [Big Sky Resort Area District Information](#)  
**Subject:** please support BBBS  
**Date:** Saturday, May 23, 2020 1:29:07 PM

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dear Resort Tax Board:

Of the many important organizations you help fund, Big Brothers and Big Sisters is certainly a worthy potential recipient. Mentoring continues to be written up as one of the more important ways we can encourage and empower young people (from elementary to high school). Fostering relationships between "bigs" and "littles" is an important gift that BBBS provides to our community.

I've watched my own 1st grade daughter grow, laugh and learn through the STEM Sisters program this year. She has loved the STEM activities that the littles and bigs of this pilot program did together. And she thinks her 8th grade "big" is funny.

Thanks for considering BBBS among the many important organizations that need tax resort support here in Big Sky.

Sincerely, Miriam Schmidt

--

**The Rev. Miriam Schmidt**  
Pastor/Priest of All Saints in Big Sky  
*A Shared Ministry of the Episcopal and Lutheran (ELCA) Churches*  
Big Sky, MT  
406.570.8632  
she/her/hers ([what's this?](#))

**From:** [Denise Wade](#)  
**To:** [Big Sky Resort Tax District Information](#)  
**Cc:** [Hans Scherthner](#); [Dennis Barrocas](#); [Maggie and Kelly Shane](#)  
**Subject:** Parkview west comments  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 10, 2020 11:24:49 AM  
**Attachments:** [Comments to BSRAD board 6.8.20.docx](#)

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Hello,

Please submit attached letter as public comment for June 10.

Additionally, a couple of questions regarding Parkview West application below:

1. Are there underlying reasons for not funding this application other than lack of funds due to covid? If so, please explain.
2. In early times of resort, funding often was for an HOA, although funds were received and administer by county officials. Does the Board have the legal authority to fund a project based on this historical model?
3. Does the Board see an avenue for projects such as Parkview West bridge infrastructure to be part of a larger collaboration of infrastructure projects in the BSRAD district that ultimately may not be the center of Big Sky, but still benefit the community at large?

Thank you

To: Resort Tax Board

From: Parkview West Association

Thank you for considering our request to fund critical infrastructure for the original, and still affordable housing in the Big Sky community. As part of the resort area district, we are thankful to be able to live in a wonderful location along the river with local and publicly accessible trails outside our door. We are also thankful to be able to work close to our homes in Big Sky.

Many of you know the history of the resort tax from the beginning in 1992 with the Big Sky Owners Association as the spearhead organization. Many smaller HOAs were (and still are) part of the BSOA. The funds were administered by Madison and Gallatin County Commissioners and distributed to entities to fund essential infrastructure, such as water and sewer, fire department, transportation, community corporation (part of BSOA, now BSCO), and owners association (BSOA), chamber of commerce. These entities have grown with the community and become their own districts or not for profit entities which have received tax allocations for many years. As Big Sky has grown, new owner associations have formed and included businesses (who collect tax), homes, vacation properties, and recreation opportunities. All of these have received benefits of tax allocations whether for infrastructure such as additional sewer capacity, improved recreation facilities, state of the art fire and emergency response. There is no doubt that these expenditures have been crucial to Big Sky growing as a community.

Parkview West Association was the first subdivision in Gallatin County in the Big Sky area. Families could afford to build a home here. The one school bus for Ophir school picked up most of the children in the canyon, because that's where families lived. As families have gotten priced out of more expensive real estate in Big Sky, families still live here and work in Big Sky. Yes, we *chose* to live here. Many of us chose to live here during the building moratorium in Big Sky in the 90's when most of the homes in West Fork/South Fork, Ramshorn and many others did not exist.

Parkview West improved the bridge to accommodate upgraded fire equipment purchased with resort tax dollars. Equipment that is necessary for safety of our community and rescue workers. However, it has resulted in needing to upgrade infrastructure in this neighborhood. Our neighborhood and the north canyon area is comprised of working people. We have seen and contributed to many improvements to infrastructure in Big Sky including money for affordable housing, rescue equipment, and transportation system (which goes by our doors but will not stop).

We urge the tax board to consider funding for infrastructure project(s) to neighborhoods where working families currently are living. Consider infrastructure projects important for health and safety and longevity a priority. We urge you to consider the north end of the tax district as part of the community worthy of receiving funds just as the associations received in resort tax infancy.

Thank you for your consideration.

June 3, 2020

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this letter to voice my support for the Morningstar Learning Center request for Tax Resort dollars. This generous contribution has been a savior to my family. We all know that Big Sky is an expensive place to live and raise a family. Because of this, we choose to forfeit a lot of dinners out, expensive trips, and purchasing of items that we deem unnecessary in an attempt to stay within our means. Childcare is a huge part of our monthly budget and the Resort Tax funds have helped us immensely. We take pride in being a part of the Big Sky Community and cannot imagine raising our children anywhere else. Thank you for your consideration to this request that is invaluable to so many.

Kind regards,

Robbeye Samardich

**From:** [Ryan Hamilton](#)  
**To:** [Big Sky Resort Tax District Information](#)  
**Cc:** [Candace Carr Strauss](#)  
**Subject:** Letter of Support for VBS - From Town Center  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 10, 2020 2:53:31 PM

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Resort Tax Board,

Please consider this letter of support for Visit Big Sky's application for funding.

Visit Big Sky's mission as the community's official destination marketing and management organization is to lead the development and promotion of authentic tourism experiences through research and stakeholder collaboration to grow Big Sky's economy while balancing the need to sustain quality of life for its residents.

Through Imagine Big Sky 2023, Visit Big Sky's Tourism Master Plan, to deliver on this mission it works to:

1. Develop a sustainable outdoor recreation experience,
2. Promote the destination beyond world-class winter to broaden Big Sky's reputation as a summer outdoor recreation destination and Gateway Community to Yellowstone National Park,
3. Lead the tourism collective in advocating for the visitor economy on a state and national level, and
4. Steward the destination to manage the balance between consumption and preservation.

Their services provided under these strategic pillars constitute our value to you, our tourism stakeholders.

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic and ensuing economic recession, Visit Big Sky, in partnership with the Big Sky Chamber has provided additional resources like disseminating vital timely information to access federal/state emergency funding, developing a Save Small Business micro-grant program which distributed \$110,000 of our their FY20 Resort Tax Allocation to 57 small businesses in our community, and deployed Reopening Bundles with PPE and public health messaging signage to 80 local businesses on Friday leading into Memorial Day Weekend to ensure they were prepared to reopen in manner necessary by our "new normal."

Funding for Visit Big Sky as a 501(c)(6) nonprofit membership organizations comes via fiscal sponsorship of the Big Sky Convention and Visitor Bureau (CVB) which is the designated recipient of the Big Sky Resort Area District's 4% Montana Lodging Facility Use Tax allocation. Funding locally is provided by the Big Sky Resort Area District's 3% luxury tax per Ordinance 98-01 which states "the purpose of the resort tax is to tax (a) Goods and Services sold to tourists and transient visitors, but which locals and other members of the general public also may purchase, and (b) Luxuries...to fund infrastructure facilities or projects, public transportation, tourism development, and other public services and facilities within the District as well as all

costs associated with the collection, administration, appropriation, expenditure, litigation of resort taxes; consistent with Ordinance No. 99-01-Ord. Additionally, private funds are raised from local businesses.

Visit Big Sky, and more importantly the tourism stakeholder businesses it represents, **is the only driver of Resort Tax collections**. To continue to ensure Big Sky is chosen as a destination by visitors, continual messaging is required to keep the destination top of mind in a world where competition for visitor mindshare is global. We would be remiss if we did not mention the devastating impact COVID-19 pandemic, economic recession and current rioting occurring in our nation are having on our local economy. **The road to recovery for our local tourism industry will be forged by Visit Big Sky.**

**Visit Big Sky's FY21 Application needs your support.** VBS is worthy of your investment as they continue to work on the community's behalf and the Big Sky destination at large.

Thank you for your support and consideration.

**Ryan Hamilton**

Big Sky Town Center

VBS Board Member

326 North Broadway

Bozeman, Montana 59715

ph. 406.586.9629

direct. 406.556.6792

cell/text: 406.580.2260

email: [ryan@bigskytowncenter.com](mailto:ryan@bigskytowncenter.com)

[www.bigskytowncenter.com](http://www.bigskytowncenter.com)

**From:** [Sarah Gaither](#)  
**To:** [Jenny Muscat](#); [Big Sky Resort Area District Information](#)  
**Subject:** In support of BSCHT request for funds  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 3, 2020 4:30:04 PM

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Hi Jenny -

I realize this is past the deadline, so I understand if this gets skipped tonight. But just in case:

I'd like to voice my support for the Big Sky Community Housing Trust's request for funds.

As the manager of the Big Sky Food Bank, I've seen the struggles that our Big Sky families face due to high rent and low housing availability. The vast majority of my clients report "housing/utility expenses" as the primary reason for their visit, followed closely by "low wages" and "homelessness" - especially in the shoulder seasons. In a town where there are so many homes sitting vacant for the majority of the year, this is hard to swallow. The Housing Trust's long term rental program aims to assist in matching available housing with those looking for rentals; we need this to be a viable program within our community.

Additionally, I've got clients who spend more than 50% of their income on their rent. This is unsustainable. The Housing Trust's future property development program is essential to increase the pool of affordable units in Big Sky. Without a broader pool of units priced affordably, we can't hope to attract and sustain a workforce who take pride in their work and in our community.

Thank you for your time,

Sarah

--

**Sarah Gaither Bivins**

Operations Manager & Services Navigator

995-3088 . [bigskyfoodbank.org](http://bigskyfoodbank.org) . [facebook.com/bigskyfoodbank](https://facebook.com/bigskyfoodbank) . [Sign Up for our Monthly Newsletter!](#)



June 9, 2020

Big Sky Resort Area District Board of Directors

**RE: Support for the Big Sky Chamber of Commerce**

Dear Members of the Board,

Thank you for your hard work to advance BSRAD to what it is today, and for allowing me the opportunity to express my support for the Big Sky Chamber of Commerce's **Leadership Big Sky** program.

My experience as Co-Chair and participant in Leadership Big Sky is one of the most educational and influential experiences I've had in my 5 year residency. In its inaugural year, this program brought together 16 diverse young professionals who engaged whole-heartedly into learning how to navigate Big Sky, develop leadership skills, and ultimately build a network of other leaders who want to advance in our community.

This program uniquely offers stream-lined insight into our community that will set our future leaders up for long-term success. Our businesses need these committed leaders.

After an incredibly successful first year, it is without question that I express my full support of Leadership Big Sky. The Chamber of Commerce played an instrumental role in the facilitation of this program, and I hope you will consider allocating funding to Leadership Big Sky.

Thank you for your 2020 support of the Big Sky Chamber of Commerce.

Sincerely,

Shannon Sears  
Board Member, Big Sky Chamber of Commerce  
Vice President, Montana Title & Escrow

**From:** [Sierra Hooge](#)  
**To:** [Big Sky Resort Tax District Information](#)  
**Subject:** BSCHT funding support  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 9, 2020 5:58:06 PM

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Hello,

It was recently brought to my attention that the resource allocation from the Resort Tax Board will be happening soon, and I wanted to put a good word in for Big Sky Community Housing Trust.

Affordable housing in Big Sky is crucial but very difficult to find. I am fortunate to be a new homeowner in the Meadowview Condominiums, a project that BSCHT championed, and I hope that my peers in town will be able to get involved in affordable housing projects as well. Before purchasing my home, it did not seem like I would be able to stay in Big Sky for much longer. I was paying more for rent and moving every six months, nearing a point that I couldn't afford, and everyone was acting like that was acceptable.

My experience with BSCHT gave me the confidence to pursue purchasing a home, taught me the basics of a real estate transaction, and built a community of people that care about living in Big Sky. The organization has continued to support me as a fresh homeowner by limiting the HOA dues that we are responsible for in this first year of ownership and has made plenty of decisions that financially benefit our HOA.

I think BSCHT is deserving of funds from the Resort Tax allocation because it will go directly to the people that keep this town moving, people that may not see a direct future in Big Sky but are committed to staying for long enough to let it play out. Please consider directing funding towards Big Sky Community Housing Trust!

Thank you,  
Sierra Hooge

**From:** [Rose, Taylor](#)  
**To:** [Big Sky Resort Tax District Information](#)  
**Subject:** Support Big Sky Community Housing Trust's Resort Tax request  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 9, 2020 8:27:11 AM

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I fully support BSCHT and all the work they are doing. Our health care workers have already benefited from their project, and hopefully can benefit more in the future. Thank you for supporting them.

**Taylor Rose**

Big Sky Medical Center

*(801) 898-2274 (cell)*

*(406) 995-6986 (office)*

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June 3, 2020

Big Sky Resort Tax Board  
11 Lone Peak Drive, Suite 204  
Big Sky, MT 59716

VIA EMAIL: [info@resorttax.org](mailto:info@resorttax.org)

**RE: Letter of Support for FY21 VISIT BIG SKY Resort Tax Application from Big Sky Vacation Rentals**

Dear Big Sky Resort Tax Board Members,

Visit Big Sky, as the community's official Destination Management and Marketing Organization, leads the development and marketing of authentic tourism experiences, through research and stakeholder collaboration to grow Big Sky's economy while balancing the need to sustain quality of life for its residents.

Tourism is the number one economic driver for the Big Sky community. As a tourism stakeholder and business leader located in the BSRAD, as well as a full time resident for the past 10 years, Visit Big Sky's work is vital to me and my business because we depend on visitors to occupy our vacation rentals during their visits to our community. Given the impact on Covid-19 on our business and others, increasing the number of visitors to Big Sky will remain a critical priority. An increase in overall visitor traffic would benefit all businesses like ours. We believe in the power of the marketing that Visit Big Sky can provide to all lodging partners and businesses in our community and hope Resort Tax will continue to support these efforts.

Resort Tax funding supports public transportation systems; tourism development; and other services that provide for the public health, safety, and welfare within the BSRAD. Visit Big Sky's request fits within this purpose of the District's Ordinance, benefitting the Big Sky community at large, not one specific person or one specific business. Visit Big Sky is the engine that fuels Resort Tax collections. No other organization requesting funds drives revenue for the Resort Tax. Without Visit Big Sky's continued support, the engine will stall as has been illustrated time and time again in numerous destinations throughout the United States, from Washington state to Colorado to Florida.

Visit Big Sky's ***Imagine Big Sky 2023 Tourism Master Plan*** focuses its work in these three areas:

- 1) To DEVELOP the destination, specifically a sustainable summer outdoor recreation experience to match that of *The Biggest Skiing in America®*,
- 2) To PROMOTE the destination BEYOND world-class winter, and
- 3) To LEAD the destination as well as the greater tourism collective throughout the state of Montana.

No other entity serving Big Sky's tourism economy is focusing on the destination as a whole, but rather on capturing individual visitation for a specific business. Please support Visit Big Sky's F21 Resort Tax Application with a full allocation as requested to ensure the continued growth and sustainability of our local tourism economy and Resort Tax funding mechanism.

Respectfully,

Tim Drain

General Manager, Natural Retreats-Big Sky

June 9, 2020

Big Sky Resort Area District  
11 Lone Peak Drive, Suite #204  
Big Sky, MT 59716

To the board of directors,

Voices of Montana Tourism serves as a united voice for Montana's tourism stakeholders. Since its creation in 2011, Voices has led the effort with education and outreach to communicate the immense value a sustainably-grown tourism industry provides for all Montanans.

As an independent non-profit, Voices does not advocate for specific policy, however, it is within our scope to provide data on the direct correlation of adequately funded tourism promotion to the economic success for communities in Montana.

By supporting **Visit Big Sky's application** to fulfill its stated goals in its Tourism Master Plan, you'll be taking proactive steps to recover from the devastating economic effects of COVID19 faster and more safely to benefit Big Sky residents through their businesses and employment.

Having witnessed the enlightened actions of this board starting in 2009 to invest in marketing to reverse the effects of the last recession, the road map to success is clearly visible.

As volunteers and elected officials, you'll be faced with very difficult decisions this allocation cycle in how to best serve your community and constituents. By prioritizing recovery through promotion and stewardship with Visit Big Sky, future boards will benefit from stronger collections translating to fewer difficult decisions.

Thank you for your service,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Dax Schieffer".

Dax Schieffer  
Director

**From:** [Paul Davis](#)  
**To:** [Daniel Bierschwale](#); [Sara Huger](#); [Jenny Muscat](#); [Sarah Blechta](#); [Steve Johnson](#); [Kevin Germain](#); [Ciara Wolfe](#); [Grace Young](#)  
**Cc:** [Jennifer Mohler](#)  
**Subject:** Letter supporting GISA to RTB June 20 signed.pdf  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 3, 2020 6:05:09 AM  
**Attachments:** [Letter supporting GISA to RTB June 20 signed.pdf](#)

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Hey Gang,

On behalf of Antler Ridge I am passing on our support for GISA. They have been instrumental in transforming our HOA from “Thistle Ridge” back to natural wild flowers. I know this is a tough year but this is worth sustaining.

Keep up the great work.  
Regards Buz

Buz Davis  
Consultant  
Davis & Associates, LLC  
[www.buzdavis.com](http://www.buzdavis.com)



June 2, 2020

Dear Resort Tax Board Members,

The residents of Antler Ridge Subdivision strongly encourage the Board to fully fund the Gallatin Invasive Species Alliance's modest request for \$26,000. Jennifer Mohler and her team are unique and major assets to the community.

The Alliance provides critical weed education, weed assessment, management assistance and resources to help landowners and entire neighborhoods meet the legal requirements to limit noxious weeds. Importantly, the alliance instructs and advocates for use of weed management techniques that spare native plants and flowers thereby adding to the beauty of the community and the health of our Elk and other wildlife that delight residents and tourists.

Jennifer and her team have generously spent time assessing and assisting Antler Ridge to develop and execute an economical resident weed management plan for vast areas of open space in our Antler Ridge Association. This past summer they educated and coordinated some 20 residents in management activities including treatment and planting native grasses and plants. There is no other like resource available in the community.

We are certainly cognizant of the impact COVID 19 has had on available resources. Nevertheless funding of the Alliance is a sound economic

investment. Neglect of weed management this season will predictably result in greater costs for homeowners, neighborhoods, associations, and Big Sky community properties in future years. We need to be good stewards of our environment particularly as the community continues to experience profound growth.

On behalf of the Antler Ridge Board, sincerely,



Michelle Kristula-Green - Secretary

Cc: Antler Ridge Board: John Bauchman, Joanna McCoy, Emilio Robau, Chuck Tufts



**From:** [Mel Crichton](#)  
**To:** [Big Sky Resort Area District Information](#)  
**Subject:** Resort tax for invasive species  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 2, 2020 9:22:00 AM

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As the tax board considers funding allocations with reduced revenue, please do not overlook the Invasive Species group. Although their priority does not seem to be critical, it is. The ongoing battle against invasive species in the Yellowstone ecosystem can not take a break, as these species would regain ground and create a setback in the work already done.

Not acting this year requires more work (and more funding need) next year and the years to follow

Thanks for listening

Mel Crichton

Big Sky

**From:** [Rich Addicks](#)  
**To:** [Big Sky Resort Area District Information](#)  
**Subject:** Support for the Arts in Big Sky  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 2, 2020 2:34:26 PM

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Dear Resort Tax Board:

I know you have some very tough decisions to make this year regarding allocation of resort tax monies, and I felt compelled to put in a good word for the arts in our town.

The fact that I am on the boards of both the Arts Council and WMPAC probably says all you need to know about where I'm coming from. I'm very proud that both organizations have shown strong creative, and strategic, thinking as they stay true to their missions while navigating these rough times.

Neither organization has gone dark the past several months, and for me, it is their offerings that have brought me joy and comforted me with a strong sense of community. I don't think I'm alone in that sentiment.

I know that Big Sky has more than its share of needs as so many strive to make our small community better, but I strongly believe that now more than ever, arts and culture are vital to us, both personally and as a community.

Thanks for your time.

R

RICH ADDICKS  
404-281-0694

**From:** [Derek Lennon](#)  
**To:** [Big Sky Resort Tax District Information](#); [Mia Lennon](#)  
**Subject:** Support For Discovery Academy Resort Tax Request  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 17, 2020 9:54:20 AM

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Hi Resort Tax,

I'm writing today to show support for Big Sky Discovery Academy's Resort Tax Request.

As a parent, I know that there are not many options for preschool/child care programs in Big Sky and the number of slots in those programs are limited. This creates a unique challenge for all parents of young children in our community.

The child care provided by Discovery (and Morning Star) is an essential service that allows full-time locals to work and live in Big Sky. Without adequate child care in Big Sky and without the funds to help locals afford that child care, it creates an issue that directly impacts Big Sky on a whole.

Please take this into account when awarding resort taxes in 2020. Thank you for your time.

Derek Lennon

**From:** [kristin Dowd](#)  
**To:** [Big Sky Resort Tax District Information](#)  
**Subject:** Discovery  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 16, 2020 3:49:30 PM

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To whom it may concern,

The tuition assistance our family receives from Discovery directly impacts our ability to enroll our child at Discovery, along with many other Big Sky families. I hope the tax board can reconsider.

Thanks for your time and consideration

Sent from my iPhone