

Hello Julie,

I received the Assembly agenda in the mail Friday and see heliskiing is on the docket  
Here are some comments for the assembly meeting:

Dear Assembly, Mayor and Manager:

It seems like there is some discussion of having Alaska Mountain Guides as a heliski company in Haines. Absolutely yes! It would be an asset to have a professional company such as AMG providing that service. They have been established in town for some time now and have proven their professionalism and respect for the community. I have found the people of AMG to be top caliber.

I believe that the long term interests of the borough would be well served by their presence in the industry here. I think many of the hassles that the borough has found itself in lately would disappear by having AMG as a provider of heliski services in this area. Competition in industry is natural and good and I believe their professionalism and sense of community would improve the overall quality of this business sector in Haines.

The heliski commission is currently working out some details of this years season and should finish their work soon. It sounds like they are coming up with some recommendations that will be a good start towards managing the industry. This commission was a good idea and I hope their efforts will begin to bring some peace around this issue. Whatever they come up with, there should be annual reviews and “tweaking” to find the best acceptable balance.

Ron Jackson  
Box 961  
Haines, AK. 99827

cc: AMG

**From:** zach@guidesinalaska.com [mailto:zach@guidesinalaska.com]

**Sent:** Thursday, February 03, 2011 4:45 PM

**To:** jcozzi@haines.ak.us

**Cc:** Alaska Mountain Guides

**Subject:** Heliskiing

Haines Borough,

I am writing to express my support of opening the heli-skiing industry in the Haines borough to more operators. I feel there is an adequate amount of environment within the borough to issue additional permits to guides who are interested in adhering to borough operating regulations. I believe Alaska Mountain Guides to be such a company worthy of a borough heli-skiing permit. They are safe, responsible, and respectful to guidelines under which they must operate. They also have a large reputation which will help to bring focus to Haines as they attract new clients.

--- Zachary Sheldon, 38-Mile Haines Highway

Haines Borough  
PO Box 1209  
Haines AK 99827

Dear Mayor, Manager, and Assembly et al:

I am writing on behalf of the Tourism Advisory Board in support of Alaska Mountain Guides and their recently submitted Helicopter tour permit application. The growth of the helicopter ski industry in Haines has been beneficial to our economy as it provides much needed revenue to local businesses during the helicopter operating season.

We believe Alaska Mountain Guides is an ideal candidate to approve for a commercial helicopter skiing permit as they are currently a local tour operator with vast experience and an exemplary record.

Alaska Mountain Guides has established a tradition of community service and professionalism.

There is an abundance of mountainous terrain surrounding Haines to support additional helicopter skiing.

The tourism advisory board members present at the January meeting voted unanimously to recommend Alaska Mountain Guides for an additional helicopter operating permit. And believe the community as well as this industry in general would benefit from having this additional operator.

Best regards,

Gregg Johnson  
Vice Chair/TAB

Jason Gaffney recused himself for the vote in support of this recommendation.

Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2011

Dear Madame Mayor, Haines Borough Assembly Members, and Haines Borough Employees,

Let me begin by saying that it's refreshing to see the recent collaboration of the Haines Borough, its residents, and the heli-skiing industry. Through civil discussion, all parties more clearly understand the extremely convoluted challenges we face from a variety of angles. The commitment of many hard working individuals is laudable and continues to bring us closer towards reaching the ideal ratio for providing world class skiing opportunities, maintaining a paramount part of Haines' winter economy, and minimizing heliskiing externalities. In spite of the progress, there are still some lingering issues which need more examination; the most pressing being the Alaska Mountain Guides desire for a heli-skiing permit.

I was pleased to hear a report of a flight the borough manager and some assembly members recently took with Drake Olson. I believe actually viewing the spectacular mountains we have from up close is an important step with respect to the majority of peoples' goals. While on the surface it may seem the currently permitted areas provide an overabundance of skiing terrain available, capable of supporting another company in the mix. However, a more revealing look indicates otherwise. To those unfamiliar with backcountry skiing, it might appear that it's plausible to ski just about anywhere there is snow across the vast landscape surrounding Haines. However, reality dictates an entirely different scenario.

In the United States, avalanches kill more people each year on average than earthquakes, landslides, or other mass movement events (Voight et al., 1990). During the 2009-2010 season alone, 36 people were killed by avalanches in our country (avalanche.org, 2010). Sadly, many of these tragedies could have been prevented by adhering to strict avalanche safety protocols. Here in Haines, we draw visitors from all over the world to access our renowned "extreme" terrain, yet due to the high level of training the current SEABA and Alaska Heliskiing guides possess, we have been able to ski here for years with very few serious injuries and no fatalities. In contrast to developed ski areas that employ active avalanche programs which use explosives to constantly blast slopes into submission, we must rely on passive techniques that drastically reduce our true amount of skiable terrain. Choosing safe ski runs for us is a very complex process focused upon a dynamic relationship between weather, snowpack, terrain, and clients' skill levels.

Some of you may recall heli-skiing's infancy in Haines, when essentially all of the participants involved were professionals well versed in avalanche safety. As a result of their pioneering efforts, over a number of years, many of the safe and economically feasible areas in the mountains around Haines were delineated in a proprietary manner. As the industry grew, this information was passed down in an apprentice type fashion to new guides, at a rate conducive towards supporting a gradual skier traffic

Avalanche.org, 2010. Avalanche Database. URL <http://avalanche.org/accidents.php>

Voight, B., Armstrong, B., Armstrong, R., Backman, D., Bowles, D., Brown, R., Faisant, R., Ferguson, S., Fredston, J. and Kennedy, J., 1990. Snow avalanche hazard and mitigation in the United States, National Academy Press, Washington, D.C.

increase and a slowly lessening client skill level. At our current state, we are close to reaching the carrying capacity of a sustainable industry striving to reach the goals stated in the first paragraph. Bringing in another company with an entirely new guide team possessing little to no local expert knowledge of historical microclimate weather patterns, snowpack, and terrain, who wish to rapidly take many skiers into the mountains around Haines is a downright dangerous proposition.

In conclusion, permitting AMG to operate heliskiing out of Haines will undoubtedly jeopardize the safety of both guides and clients as they are pushed into unsafe areas to find untracked powder desired by demanding clients. Competition in the heli-skiing industry is already fierce, especially in these difficult economic times. Diminishing guest experiences will tarnish Haines' reputation as the world's premier heliskiing destination and ultimately drive clients to other areas in a manner similar to which already occurred in the Valdez vicinity. Additionally, tipping the scales with another local operation will stress the fragile consensus residents and the industry has worked so hard to build over the years. I urge you to please consider these facts carefully before making a decision with such massive implications, especially in light of the harsh consequences issuing another heliskiing permit will inevitably bring.

Sincerely,

Matthew Borish, SEABA Avalanche Forecaster and Guide

Avalanche.org, 2010. Avalanche Database. URL <http://avalanche.org/accidents.php>

Voight, B., Armstrong, B., Armstrong, R., Backman, D., Bowles, D., Brown, R., Faisant, R., Ferguson, S., Fredston, J. and Kennedy, J., 1990. Snow avalanche hazard and mitigation in the United States, National Academy Press, Washington, D.C.

**From:** Theodore Purdy [mailto:[tedlpurdy@hotmail.com](mailto:tedlpurdy@hotmail.com)]

**Sent:** Thursday, February 17, 2011 5:08 PM

**To:** Julie Cozzi; [daymondhoffman@yahoo.com](mailto:daymondhoffman@yahoo.com); [steve.vick@gmail.com](mailto:steve.vick@gmail.com); [blackdoghp@yahoo.com](mailto:blackdoghp@yahoo.com); [oinkeriw@gmail.com](mailto:oinkeriw@gmail.com); [bflipper3@starband.net](mailto:bflipper3@starband.net); Jan Hill

**Subject:** Letter pertaining to potential A.M.G. tour permit

Haines Borough,

I am the lead guide and operations manager for Alaska Heliskiing. I am writing to express my concerns about the potential AMG Heliski permit for 2011. With the closure of the BLM land for this season Alaska Heliskiing and SEABA will be in direct competition for ski terrain this season more than ever in the past. This can potentially create some safety issues that we are already creating new protocols between companies to accommodate for, with our long standing relationships this should work out fine. By adding a new company into the permit area, not only will it make it that much more congested, and potentially more dangerous, it can possibly have a negative effect on our customers experience. We are trying to create a wilderness experience as much as possible and other helicopters and lots of tracks will not help to paint that picture. This is a word of mouth industry and once you lose your customers it will be very hard to get them back. 2011 is not the year to consider another operator!

Ted Purdy  
Alaska Heliskiing

**From:** jonasazi@aol.com [mailto:jonasazi@aol.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 06, 2011 10:47 PM  
**To:** Julie Cozzi; climb@alaskamountainguides.com  
**Subject:** Alaska mountain Guides heli Permit

Hi,

My name is Jon hirsh, and I want to encourage the Borough of Haines to accept Alaska Mountain Guides request for a commercial heliski permit. have been a living in Haines for over 10 years. I have also known the Gaffney's and Ely ( owners of Alaska Mountain Guides) for that time as well. They are very reputable, honest, hardworking business people. Adding AMG into the equation of heli-skiing in Haines would be a good move for Haines. For one I trust them. They are conscience of the community's needs and I feel confident they will provide an up front, honest operation. Two, they are also skilled and competent. Thirdly, AMG has the history of providing exceptional opportunities for local youth. The borough should be proud to give a heliski permit to these guys. These qualities in a business will help to improve Haines' heliski reputation and should be seriously considered for the 2011 ski season.

I support the heliski business here in Haines, and I also want to enjoy the peace and solitude here in our surrounding wilderness. My support for the heliskiing depend solely on the fact that these companies will follow the guidelines that the community has set.. I trust AMG to follow the guidelines. I have heliskied and believe there is some big country that could easily be shared by three companies ,

Thank You

sincerely

Jon Hirsh

**From:** Stanley Jones [mailto:snjones@aptalaska.net]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 04, 2011 10:17 PM  
**To:** Julie Cozzi  
**Cc:** climb@alaskamountainguides.com  
**Subject:** heli-skiing

Julie Cozzi

Haines Borough

We support the efforts to increase heli-skiing in the Haines area. This is an important addition to the Haines economy at a time of the year when it is desperately needed by the restaurants and housing facilities. It also benefits the grocers that provide food, our sales tax base, water and sewer revenues to the borough as the commercial businesses are metered and the community in general as it advertises Haines! Where can you get better free advertising of our natural beauty and fine tourist destination? Alaska Mountain Guides is a truly professional organization that conducts tours in many places around the world. We encourage the borough to permit AMG to provide this additional tour as they are highly qualified and will provide some additional Haines employment. We do not think the number of days of skiing should be limited to 1200 for all providers. Let's promote Haines as a tourist friendly destination!!!!!!!!!! Why kill the goose that may lay a golden egg?

Stan Jones & Kathy Pardee-Jones

**From:** Mark Sebens [mailto:mwsebens@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 04, 2011 6:01 PM  
**To:** Julie Cozzi  
**Cc:** climb@alaskamountainguides.com  
**Subject:** AMG Heliskiing

Dear Haines Borough I am writing in  
support of Alaska Mountain Guides and their recently submitted Helicopter tour permit application. The growth of the helicopter ski industry in Haines has been beneficial to our economy. I believe Alaska Mountain Guides is an ideal candidate to be approved for a commercial helicopter skiing permit as it is a local tour operation with vast experience and an exemplary record. Over the years Alaska Mountain Guides has established a tradition of remarkable community service and professionalism.

There is plenty of mountainous terrain surrounding Haines to support additional helicopter skiing. I believe that the helicopter ski industry and the town of Haines would benefit from having additional operators. If AMG is allocated 200 user days out of the airport, they will continue to bring professionalism and positively impact the Haines economy.

I have personally known Sean Gaffney for better than 20 years and Jason Gaffney for 5 years and have always known them to be conscientious, hardworking, and responsive to the public trust. Their entry into Heliskiing in Haines would be nothing but a bonus to our community.

Thank you for your consideration.....Mark Sebens

**From:** Gary Lowe [mailto:glowe307@aptalaska.net]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 04, 2011 12:14 AM  
**To:** Julie Cozzi  
**Subject:** Alaska Mtn Guides heli skiing permit

Dear Haines Borough,

I am writing in support of Alaska Mountain Guides and their recently submitted Helicopter tour permit application.

I have worked for Alaska Mountain Guides for the past three years. I am extremely proud to be part of their team. The things that stand out in their training is safety, knowledge and compliance with state laws and borough regulations.

As an, over-protective, parent I encouraged our 15 year old daughter, Samantha to do the summer activities that Alaska Mountain Guides offered free to the youth in Haines. I felt completely confident that she was in good hands knowing personally the guides she was with and the professionalism that they have in all situations.

Alaska Mountain Guides is an ideal candidate to be approved for a commercial helicopter skiing permit as it is a local tour operation with vast experience and an exemplary record. Over the years Alaska Mountain Guides has established a tradition of remarkable community service and professionalism.

Haines, AK benefits because Alaska Mountain Guides has chosen this most beautiful and recreational area to call home. I would whole-heartedly recommend supporting Alaska Mountain Guides in receiving their Heli-Skiing permit.

Sincerely,

Kelly L. Lowe 935 Small Tracts Rd. Haines, Alaska

## **To Mayor Hill and Haines Borough Assembly Members:**

My name is David Sundnas and I am a property owner and resident of the Haines borough. Six years ago when I first came to Haines, I saw with my own eyes the most magnificent and majestic mountains I had ever seen. Alaska at it's finest, our home the Chilkat valley. I decided from that point on, that I wanted to be a part of this community. And at first glance the people of Haines seemed honest and welcoming. It was my extensive climbing and ski mountaineering experience that lead me to become a guide in the heli-ski industry.

This letter is in no way biased; I am speaking from my own experiences and opinion. Having worked for Alaska Mountain Guides and Seaba as a lead Ski Guide, no other resident of this community has experienced this industry in the way I have. I believe there are several facts that Mayor Hill and Assembly need to take into consideration when allowing another player in the heli-ski industry.

First we need the facts on Alaska mountain guides experience with helicopter skiing. Having been the lead guide on their first Heli-ski trip in Skagway in 2009 (two years ago) I can verify there were only two clients. This was the only heli-ski trip they ran in 2009. I find their claims of 300 skier days totally false and misleading

If you have ever taken a flight through the mountains one can see the expansive wilderness of glaciers and mountains surrounding Haines. Although the area allowed for skiing may seem large, there is actually limited terrain that is safe and that holds good snow for skiing. The operational logistics three companies operating on different channels, in limited flight corridors, is a safety issue that could jeopardize safety of clients, guides, and pilots. The potential for three operations flying from the airport, 18 mile, and 33 mile, just makes my head spin. There is simply just not enough room logistically for a third operation.

Who in Haines wants summer heli tourism? If AMG is allowed a heli-ski permit, they will be bringing in Temsco helicopters. A company we don't need in Haines. It takes only an hour or two in Skagway/Juneau to realize the negative impacts of large-scale helicopter tourism. On a recent personal expedition to the headwaters of the Chilkat River, I was shocked to see a squadron of five temsco helicopters landing in the Haines borough, and in prime bear denning habit. A place they are not permitted to land in. In addition AMG and Temsco have been landing on the Garrison Glacier in the kicking horse valley for the past five summers, an area they are not permitted to land in. Is this kind of behavior acceptable? I hope not!

I think a reasonable mantra while making this decision is **sustainability**. If the community of Haines intends to nurture the industry of heli-skiing, it needs be done in a sustainable manner. The addition of another operator would damage the character of the experience Seaba/AK heliski provides. Having guided all levels of skiers from all around the world, I know what we have in Haines is unique and very special, but fragile. Another operator might make it a less desirable destination, people come to Haines for the mountains and pioneer feel, another operator would change this dynamic for the worse.

RECEIVED Haines Borough

FEB 03 2011

Clerk's Office

In closing, I urge the residents of Haines to do the necessary homework, and make well-informed decisions. AMG is not being honest about it's experience heli-ski guiding and have been in violation for the past five years with tourism based helicopter landings in the Kicking Horse Valley, a fact that does not sit well with me. Don't let Alaska Mountain Guides Wal-Mart heli-skiing in Haines. As a resident, the fact that AMG is misrepresenting itself is a bad sign of future dealings with Alaska Mountain Guides in Haines. Thank you for your time.

## Julie Cozzi

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**From:** DIANA [lapham@aptalaska.net]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 25, 2011 4:14 AM  
**To:** Julie Cozzi  
**Subject:** Helisking Permit

Dear Julie and Assembly....I am writing this email to go on record as being PRO helisking...for the existing operators as well as for Alaska Mountain Guides. We have a large amount of area to "show off" to visitors. I believe AMG will be professional and excellent to work with if approved for a helisking permit. The benefits from having 3 operators will have a large impact on the town of Haines. From the sales tax generated, to the eating establishments, the grocery stores, all of us will benefit from having visitors here. We don't have the luxury of saying having visitors here at a slow time of year...we have a SLOW time all year long....why don't we encourage and support the winter trade..after all we have the back country that takes a persons breath away...lets share it. Thank you for your time and please see your way clear to approve Alaska Mountain Guides in their efforts to bring more economy to Haines...lets not perpetuate the idea that Haines is not a easy place to start a business...I believe this falls under the "economic development" that we all so want for our community...don't shut it down..

Pete and I would be attending the meeting if it were not for the fact that we are traveling home today...we have been in Seattle for follow up scans and this has been our "topic" of conversation since we have been gone. I truly hope that you will issue the permit for AMG.

Thank you

Diana Lapham

**From:** Suzy Waterhouse [mailto:suzywaterhouse@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 25, 2011 2:45 PM  
**To:** climb@alaskamountainguides.com; jcozzi@haines.ak.us  
**Subject:** Heli Permit

Dear Haines Borough,

I am writing in support of Alaska Mountain Guides and their recently submitted Helicopter tour permit application. The growth of the helicopter ski industry in Haines has been beneficial to our economy. I believe Alaska Mountain Guides is an ideal candidate to be approved for a commercial helicopter skiing permit as it is a local tour operation with vast experience and an exemplary record.

Over the years Alaska Mountain Guides has established a tradition of remarkable community service and professionalism.

There is plenty of mountainous terrain surrounding Haines to support additional helicopter skiing. I believe that the helicopter ski industry and the town of Haines would benefit from having additional operators.

Thank you for your consideration.

Suzy Waterhouse

## Julie Cozzi

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**From:** Julie [outdoorgrrl@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 20, 2011 5:50 AM  
**To:** jcozzi@haines.ak.us  
**Cc:** Alaska Mountain Guides  
**Subject:** Helicopter Skiing

Dear Haines Borough,

I am writing in support of Alaska Mountain Guides and their recently submitted Helicopter tour permit application. The growth of the helicopter ski industry in Haines has been beneficial to our economy and I believe will continue as such. I believe Alaska Mountain Guides is a great candidate to be approved for a commercial helicopter skiing permit as it is a local tour operation with vast experience and an exemplary record. Over the years Alaska Mountain Guides has established a tradition of remarkable community service and professionalism. They have shown devotion to Haines and its residents through various good acts, including active involvement in search and rescue, collaboration with fire and EMS for gear and training opportunities, and providing free classes for youth. I feel that, of all the tour operators vying for permits, Alaska Mountain Guides has shown the most dedication to Haines as a community.

There is plenty of mountainous terrain surrounding Haines to support additional helicopter skiing. I believe that the helicopter ski industry and the town of Haines would benefit from having additional operators.

Thank you for your consideration. Respectfully,

Julie Anderson

Dear Haines Borough,

1/20/11

I am writing in support of Alaska Mountain Guides and their recently submitted Helicopter tour permit application. The growth of the helicopter ski industry in Haines has been beneficial to our economy. I believe Alaska Mountain Guides is an ideal candidate to be approved for a commercial helicopter skiing permit as it is a local tour operation with vast experience and an exemplary record. Over the years Alaska Mountain Guides has established a tradition of remarkable community service and professionalism.

There is plenty of mountainous terrain surrounding Haines to support additional helicopter skiing. I believe that the helicopter ski industry and the town of Haines would benefit from having additional operators.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Russ Lyman  
PO Box 81  
Haines, AK 99827  
907-766-2724

Thursday, January 20, 2011

Council members:

My name is Ray Chapin. I have been a physical education teacher at the Haines Borough School District for the past nine years. The purpose of this letter is to endorse and support Alaska Mountain Guides in their endeavor to enter the heli-skiing industry in Haines, AK. I have served as a chaperone on four of AMG's youth trips. They have provided these activities at no charge to the families of Haines for the past couple of years. During these trips I have come to know the management and many of the guides at AMG. These experiences with Alaska Mountain Guides qualify me to speak about the quality of their employees, the integrity of the company, and Alaska Mountain Guides commitment to the community of Haines.

On each trip I have been on with AMG I have been impressed with the professionalism of the guides and their commitment to the safety of their clients. I have spent time on glaciers, ice climbing, climbing as a part climbing team, kayaking, zip lining, and repelling down a 80 foot cliff and rock climbing. In each of these experiences, the experienced team of guide's have been extremely professional and take all precautions necessary to ensure the safety of their clients. They base all their decisions on what they can do safely with the people they are leading. They are very personable and easy to get along with while making you feel safe at the same time.

During one outing to Davidson glacier, AMG, once again garnered my respect by paying the expense to fly everyone home when weather would not permit a boat to come and pick us up. This demonstrated to me the company's integrity. They could have waited for the weather to clear and at much less expense brought children home on a boat; However, they chose to get kids home to their families sooner and paid to have us all flown home. This anecdotal evidence, along with getting to know Eli, and the management team has convinced me of the companies integrity and how responsive they will be to our community.

Finally, AMG will be a benefit to the heli-skiing industry in Haines because they are committed to our kids. Not only do they offer free trips and once in a lifetime experiences for our children, but they also provide a career path for kids into the outdoor recreation and guiding industries. I have watched them work with high school students and encourage these kids to look at becoming employees for AMG. My oldest daughter, Alexandria can see herself becoming a guide for AMG, just like Meredith. I know AMG is going to be in Haines for a long time to come and they will be responsive to the heli-skiing concerns, and have the integrity to abide by the wishes of a community. Haines needs a company like AMG to expand its business and provide employment opportunities for our future generations.

If you would like to contact me and ask any further questions, don't hesitate, as Alaska Mountain Guides has my support without any reservations.

Thank you ,

Ray Chapin  
Professional Educator

Julie Cozzi  
Haines Borough Clerk  
P. O. Box 1229  
Haines, Alaska 99827

RECEIVED

JAN 20 2011

January 20, 2011

*Haines* BOROUGH

Dear Ms. Cozzi,

Alaska Mountain Guides is a premier business in Haines, which has made a conscientious decision to located their headquarters here locally, even though they operate a world wide service on several continents and could be anywhere on the planet, we have the good fortune of having them here in Haines, Alaska.

This is a blessing, a gift to our community because they not only love it here themselves they see opportunity. Haines needs visionary people to find employment for the community folks, creating jobs and attracting an environmentally friendly industry so we all can continue to live in this community we love.

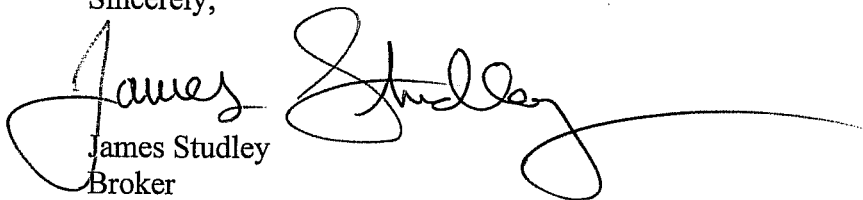
Competition is good for industry growth; it generates more business when competition is allowed to flourish. It makes those businesses that have something to offer sharper and a higher quality of service usually comes about for the public as a direct result. I support the growth of the Heli Skiing industry in general and hope that you will permit the Alaska Mountain Guides application to operate in Haines.

Do not hamper economic growth here in Haines! Let's exploit the beauty of Haines with the professionals that live here, they will protect their own industry to further growth and we can all benefit through this unique diversification in our economy.

The heli ski industry has proven to be more than an economical benefit to our community but have been directly responsible for the rescue of more than one stranded hiker that may have easily lost their lives with out the expertise of the professionals in this industry.

Please share this letter of support with the Mayor, Manager & the Haines Borough Assembly.

Sincerely,



James Studley  
Broker

Haines Real Estate  
P. O. Box 946  
Haines, Alaska 99827

Daniel Gonce  
PO Box 644  
Haines, AK 99827  
766-3266

RECEIVED Haines Borough

JAN 20 2011

Clerk's Office

January 20, 2011

To The Haines Borough Assembly:

I would like to show my support for Alaska Mountain Guides in their request to the Haines Borough in getting a 2011 Haines Borough Heli-ski Tour permit. I fully believe that the Heli-ski industry is essential for the long term wellness of the Haines Borough. Additionally, I believe that Alaska Mountain Guides is a huge asset of a company to both the industry and the Haines Borough in general. I have dealt with the owners of the company and several of the employees of the company on several occasions and have felt that it has been a quality experience every time. They are honest and to the point. Most importantly for the Haines Borough, they are part of a huge social network in the mountaineering and rescue industry. This kind of exposure for the Haines Borough is essential.

Recently I worked directly with Sean on the search and then the rescue of the fallen hiker on Mt. Ripinski. Sean, through the Alaska State Troopers, basically coordinated the tactical operations, and aided in getting other regional resources queued up for this massive operation. Sean was a leader in directing the Haines Volunteer Fire Department's Search and Rescue Team, Juneau Mountain Rescue Team and the Skagway's Search and Rescue's Mountain Team. Sean was recently commended by name, by the local Alaska State Trooper Josh Bentz, for his assistance and dedication.

This is the kind of operation I feel we as citizens of the Haines Borough will see that Alaska Mountain Guides will bring to the industry table. I have seen that Sean and his brother have been instrumental in working with the Heli-ski tour working group, and want to be a part of the relationship amongst all of the stakeholders in the industry.

Alaska Mountain Guides does a lot of business during the summer time in Upper Lynn Canal. Now they want to bring in additional business to Haines during the winter time. This can only mean additional local dollars brought into the businesses and indirectly to the Borough. Please consider granting Alaska Mountain Guides their request for a 2011 Heli-Ski Tour Permit.

If you have any additional questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to call on my cell phone: 303-7070. Thank you for your consideration.

G'day



Daniel "Danny" Gonce

January 19, 2011

Dear Borough Assembly Members:

I have had several opportunities to work with Alaska Mountain Guides over recent years and have found AMG to conduct business in an organized and professional manner. My experiences with AMG include climbing Mt. Kilimanjaro with scouts, and chaperoning Chilkat Valley youth on AMG donated trips to Flower Mountain and Davidson Glacier. My daughters have also benefitted from Alaska Mountain Guides professionalism and expertise through kayaking and ice climbing outings. I have been impressed by the attention to detail and professionalism demonstrated by Alaska Mountain Guides.

Alaska Mountain Guides is a good neighbor and local business. I support Alaska Mountain Guides pursuit of permits for heli-skiing in the Chilkat Valley.

Sincerely,

Jansy Hansen  
P.O. Box 1667  
Haines, AK 99827

## Julie Cozzi

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**From:** adriane franks [kailer@aptalaska.net]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 19, 2011 8:10 PM  
**To:** jcozzi@haines.ak.us  
**Subject:** Alaska Mountain Guides

To whom it may concern;

Hi, my name is Adriane Franks, and I am writing this letter in support of the Alaska Mountain Guides for their Helicopter tour guide permit.

This company has offered many programs in this community. They especially have had a great impact on our youth. They have offered, throughout the years, different ventures such as, ice climbing, sea kayaking, river kayaking, hiking and even camping. Alaska Mountain Guides are a great asset to our community. With that being said, I believe that this company would be an ideal candidate for a commercial helicopter skiing permit. They have great people working for them, and they are trusted.

We have vast mountainous terrain here in Haines Alaska, there is plenty of room for all. I believe that our town would benefit from having additional helicopter ski tours, it will bring more people in.

Thank you for your consideration.

## Julie Cozzi

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**From:** Dennis and Mary Miles [miles@aptalaska.net]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 19, 2011 6:34 PM  
**To:** jcozzi@haines.ak.us  
**Cc:** climb@alaskamountainguides.com  
**Subject:** AMG Support

Haines Borough,

I support Alaska Mountain Guides heliski permit application. They are a proven company in professionalism with a great track record. There are plenty of mountains around to share with another local operator. We have world class heliski snow conditions. Let's share our beautiful place with the world! And do something for our local economy, instead of chasing opportunities like this away. As a local business owner we see it, feel it, and collect the trickle down effect of having cash injected into our community. Of course, this generates more sales tax revenues which in turn goes to help pay for our library, boat harbor, snow removal, etc. I support AMG and the heliski industry.

Thank You,  
Dennis Miles

## Julie Cozzi

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**From:** Hansens [svhansen@aptalaska.net]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 19, 2011 2:55 PM  
**To:** jcozzi@haines.ak.us  
**Subject:** Heli-skiing - Alaska Mountain Guides

Dear Haines Borough Assembly -

I am writing in support of Alaska Mountain Guides and their recently submitted helicopter tour permit application.

I staffed the original Tourism Planning Committee and also the Planning Commission when helicopter skiing regulation was formally requested. I saw data existent at that time, and I felt the emotion presented by both sides. I produced the first heli-skiing map for the Assembly. I think that helicopter tours offer long-term, positive, community-wide impacts after all aspects are considered. I encourage you toward the courage and political will to endorse the reasonable economic boost the heli-tour industry can provide.

I believe that Alaska Mountain Guides is an ideal candidate to be approved for commercial helicopter skiing. As a company already in the area I think the community can consider with calm assurance that their operations will be undertaken with minimal negative impacts to the area.

I also think that the mountainous terrain surrounding Haines can support additional helicopter skiing - an increase in skier days. Although the industry attracts a clientele very much different than our family-based approach to life, and in some ways very opposite in overall goals, the industry is viable, legal, and appropriate for our area. Haines would benefit from having additional operators, Alaska Mountain Guides in particular.

Thank you for your consideration.

Scott Hansen  
HC60 Box 2100  
766-3538

## Julie Cozzi

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**From:** milesfurniture [miles1@aptalaska.net]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 19, 2011 2:49 PM  
**To:** jcozzi@haines.ak.us  
**Cc:** climb@alaskamountainguides.com  
**Subject:** Support of AMG for heliskiing

Haines Borough,

I am writing in support of Alaska Mountain Guides and their helicopter tour permit. I think there is room for them in the heliski industry of Haines. There is enough area around Haines to support additional heliskiing and another operator. AMG would do a great job with commercial tours as they have a lot of experience and are professional. Heliskiing is a huge benefit to Haines businesses, especially needed in winter. They have my support!

Thank You,  
Mary Miles

## Julie Cozzi

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**From:** Rachel Butler [lehcar70@aol.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 19, 2011 1:44 PM  
**To:** jcozzi@haines.ak.us  
**Subject:** Heli Skiing support

Dear Haines Borough,

I am writing in support of Alaska Mountain Guides and their recently submitted Helicopter tour permit application. The growth of the helicopter ski industry in Haines has been beneficial to our economy. I believe Alaska Mountain Guides is an ideal candidate to be approved for a commercial helicopter skiing permit as it is a local tour operation with vast experience and an exemplary record. Over the years Alaska Mountain Guides has established a tradition of remarkable community service and professionalism.

There is plenty of mountainous terrain surrounding Haines to support additional helicopter skiing. I believe that the helicopter ski industry and the town of Haines would benefit from having additional operators.

Thank you and kind regards,

Rachel Younkerman-Butler  
PO box 1197  
Haines AK 99827

TO:

The Haines Borough Assembly

FROM:

AL Gilliam

DATE: January 18, 2011

RE: AK Mountain Guides  
Heli Ski Permit Application

It has come to my attention that Alaska Mountain Guides is applying for a Heli Ski Tour Permit.

I am in support of permitting AK Mountain Guides for the following reasons:

Over the years they have grown to be one of our most successful and respected local adventure companies. They accomplished their success through diligence and diversification, while operating by the rules. Unlike local existing heli ski operators, Alaska Mountain Guides are not controversial because they do not create controversy.

If permitted I expect that they would quickly set a new standard for operational procedures, which would help the local heli ski industry gain the respectability that they are presently lacking and end a lot of the related divisiveness that has plagued our community for years.

In addition, because of my thirty plus years as a local woodsman, my history as an environmentally consciences resource consumer, my present position on the local Fish & Game Advisory Committee along with my credentials as a licensed Master Hunting Guide, Sean Gaffney has recently asked my advise concerning critical mountain goat habitat and brown bear denning locations related to heli ski operations. Considering that the existing local permittees and associated support personnel have, to my knowledge, never went out of their way to personally explore habitat issues, and did not broach the subject until either contacted by me, wildlife biologists or forced to deal with a committee, I find Sean Gaffney's concerns and actions to be refreshing and indicative of a consciences operator worthy of a heli ski permit.

## Julie Cozzi

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**From:** chilkat@doctor.com  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 18, 2011 12:38 PM  
**To:** jcozzi@haines.ak.us  
**Subject:** Endorsement for Alaska Mountain Guides

Hello Miss Cozzi;

I am writing this letter on behalf of Alaska Mountain Guides(AMG). AMG has shown themselves to be a responsible, professional, and compliant tour operator over a number of years both in Alaska and the lower 48 states. In view of how some tour operators have blatantly violated the regulations established by the Haines Borough for the heli-skiing industry it is now time we rewarded an organization who can act as a role model for others in this industry. I strongly support and encourage the approval of Alaska Mountain Guides as a heli-skiing tour operator in the Haines Borough. Perhaps with a responsible, professional, and compliant tour operator, such as Alaska Mountain Guides, setting the daily standard as a role model for all heli-skiing tour operators the industry will prosper in the Haines Borough. This can be done without infringing on the privacy and solitude of both borough residents and our local fauna such as mountain goats, as long as the Haines Borough maintains and enforces regulations that reward outstanding behavior on the part of tour operators.

Please approve Alaska Mountain Guides as a heli-skiing tour operator in the Haines Borough. In doing so we send a clear message that professional and responsible behavior is rewarded to those who fulfill this mandate. Thank you.

Cordially,

Dr. Dan A. Hart  
P.O. Box 1522  
Haines, Alaska 99827  
Tel: 907-314-3045

**Julie Cozzi**

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**From:** CHERYL MCROBERTS [cherylmcroberts@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 18, 2011 12:00 PM  
**To:** jcozzi@haines.ak.us  
**Subject:** Support For Alaska Mountain Guides

To Whom it may Concern:  
RE: Alaska Mountain Guides request for Helisking

Dear Assembly Members,  
Please be advised that I Cheryl McRoberts, the Director Of Operations at the American Bald Eagle Foundation am in full support of the request for the Helisking permit by the Alaska Mountain Guides. I have been dealing with Alaska Mountain Guides for the past 3 years and have found them always to very professional in their business dealings. The Staff and management have always put the 100% into the tours they operate and we feel they would continue to do this on this new venture. The Company would provide education and employment opportunities for many, which is needed. Thank you for your time and consideration.

***Cheryl McRoberts***

***PO Box 324***

***Haines, AK 99827***

***907-766-2752***

## Julie Cozzi

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**From:** DIANA [lapham@aptalaska.net]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 18, 2011 8:44 AM  
**To:** Julie Cozzi  
**Subject:** Alaska Mountain Guides Support

Good Morning Julie.....I would like to go on record of support for the helisking industry and Alaska Mountain Guides. I believe healthy competition is good. I also believe that with additional companies,additional days have to allotted. Thank you for your time.

Pete Lapham  
[766-2503/lapham@aptalaska.net](mailto:766-2503/lapham@aptalaska.net)



HOTEL

*Hälsingland*

"NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORICAL SITES"

January 18, 2011

Dear Haines Borough,

I am writing in support of Alaska Mountain Guides and their recently submitted Helicopter tour permit application. The growth of the helicopter ski industry in Haines has been beneficial to our economy. I believe Alaska Mountain Guides is an ideal candidate to be approved for a commercial helicopter skiing permit as it is a local tour operation with vast experience and an exemplary record. Over the years Alaska Mountain Guides has established a strong tradition of community service and professionalism.

There is plenty of mountainous terrain surrounding Haines to support additional helicopter skiing. I believe that the helicopter ski industry and the town of Haines would benefit from having additional operators.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jeff Butcher

Owner

Hotel Hälsingland

POST OFFICE BOX 1649  
HAINES, ALASKA 99827

CALL TOLL FREE 800-542-6363

TELEPHONE (907) 766-2000  
FAX (907) 766-2060

Reservations@HotelHalsingland.com  
www.HotelHalsingland.com

## Julie Cozzi

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**From:** Sarah Jaymot [sljaymot@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 18, 2011 9:16 AM  
**To:** jcozzi@haines.ak.us  
**Cc:** Alaska Mountain Guides  
**Subject:** Helicopter Tour Permit

Julie,  
Attached, and posted below you will find a letter of support for the upcoming vote regarding an additional Helicopter Tour Permit.  
Please feel free to contact me if there any questions regarding this letter. Thank you for your time in getting this letter of support to the people that are most concerned. I hope you have a great day!  
Sarah Jaymot

Sarah Jaymot  
P.O. Box 937  
Haines, AK 99827  
[sljaymot@hotmail.com](mailto:sljaymot@hotmail.com)  
907-766-3334

Haines Borough  
P.O. Box 1209  
Haines, AK 99827

January 18, 2011

Dear Haines Borough, Haines Assembly and all concerned parties,

I am writing in support of Alaska Mountain Guides and their recently submitted Helicopter tour permit application. The growth of the helicopter ski industry in Haines has been beneficial to our economy as a whole not just the operators running these tours. Any economic growth during the darkest, slowest time in Haines economy should be supported and encouraged. I believe Alaska Mountain Guides is an ideal candidate to be approved for a commercial helicopter skiing permit, as it is a local tour operation with vast experience and an exemplary record. They run business all over the world and are not new to the heli tour industry, as they have been offering this tour in Skagway over the last decade. Over the years Alaska Mountain Guides has established a tradition of remarkable community service and professionalism. More importantly, this company exemplifies good business practice right here in our community by always helping other businesses when appropriate and as their funding and manpower allow. Furthermore, their free programs offered to our communities' youth using their equipment, their guides, and their time is an investment in the Chilkat Valley. Alaska Mountain Guides has proven year after year that their company is not just in business for themselves, they give back to this community and I expect that trend to be maintained throughout the coming years. There is plenty of mountainous terrain surrounding Haines to support additional helicopter skiing. I believe that the helicopter ski industry and the town of Haines would benefit from having additional operators such as Alaska Mountain Guides.

If there are any questions regarding this letter of support please feel free to contact me at the above information. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Sarah Jaymot

## Julie Cozzi

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**From:** flydrake.com [drake@flydrake.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 18, 2011 9:07 AM  
**To:** jcozzi@haines.ak.us  
**Subject:** heliskiing

If Alaska Mountain Guides is allowed to operate helicopter skiing in the local mountains. I'm sure they will conduct such operations professionally. Drake Olson, ECA, Inc.

## Julie Cozzi

---

**From:** Glen Jacobson [fjordman@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 17, 2011 5:08 PM  
**To:** jcozzi@haines.ak.us  
**Subject:** AMG permit ..public comment

City and Borough of Haines,

I wish to express my support for the permit application of Alaska Mountain Guides and Climbing School. I am acquainted both on a professional and personal level with the management of this fine and growing company. I know that the Borough will experience a high level of honor, ethics, and professionalism in its dealings with this company.

Sincerely,  
Glen M. Jacobson  
Pres. Alaska Fjordlines Inc.

# ERIC KOCHER

January 17, 2011

Haines Borough  
Haines, Alaska

Dear Haines Borough,

I am writing in support of Alaska Mountain Guides and their recently submitted Helicopter tour permit application. I am familiar with Alaska Mountain Guides having worked with them as kayak guide for the past two summers and also having worked with one of the owners as a member of the Haines Volunteer Fire Department Ambulance crew. I believe Alaska Mountain Guides is an ideal candidate to be approved for a commercial helicopter skiing permit. It is a local tour operator with vast experience and an exemplary record. Over the years Alaska Mountain Guides has established a tradition of remarkable community service and professionalism.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

***Eric***

Eric Kocher

Read aloud by Gary Lidholm  
during 12/14/10 BA mtg


**Statement of Support for Alaska Mountain Guides Heli-Skiing Permit Application**  
December 14, 2010


Thank you madam Mayor and Assembly members for the opportunity to comment on the application submitted by Alaska Mountain Guides. I am speaking for my wife, who could not be here tonight, and myself as participants in the lodging business sector of the Haines economy, members of the Chamber of Commerce and her involvement on the Haines Tourism Advisory Board. We have come to appreciate the professionalism of Alaska Mountain Guides and the business they bring to upper Lynn Canal.

AMG is a proven company that has operated here for 20 years. Their application indicates a willingness to work with the Borough on heli-skiing regulations and they have experience in this industry in the Skagway area. Indeed, they are already permitted by DNR and BLM for ski operations on BLM lands and for many winter uses within our area and they have adopted the "Leave No Trace" policy for land use.

The staff at AMG are an active part of this community and are involved in the Volunteer Fire Department Ambulance Crew, leadership schools and community youth educational programs. They are affiliated with a number of organizations that have given them accreditation for college level course work.

The permit application is very sensitive to the concerns that have been raised in opposition to heli-skiing. It is our opinion that they should be granted this permit for the requested number of skier days. May we also caution the Assembly as they consider this important late-winter business resource for the Haines Borough that they do not try to over-regulate this particular business sector and set arbitrary limits not driven by market factors.

  
Gary V. Lidholm

  
Juanita S. Lidholm

Russ Lyman  
during 12/14/10 BA mtg Times 6:30

Dec 11, 2011

Esteemed Mayor and Borough Assembly Members,

I understand that there is a tour proposal that you will be considering at Tuesday's meeting. I regret that I am not here to testify in person, so I trust that this letter will suffice.

The issue at hand is not whether AMG is qualified to run helicopter ski tours in the Chilkat Valley. Their reputation for professionalism is well known, and the completeness of their application verifies this.

The important part of this permit to look at is the request that AMG be given "600 skier days or the same number of days as the other operators." Can this valley handle another company with 600 additional skier days? Would it be fair to divide skier days between three companies when they were previously allocated between two companies? Should the fact that SEABA is required to reapply for a helicopter tour permit for 2011 impact the way the Assembly looks at AMG's request? Would it be fair to substitute AMG for another company that presently holds a permit? What happens when/if a fourth, fifth, and sixth company applies for a permit?

This is obviously a complex issue and, to the Mayor's credit, a Helicopter Working Group has been convened. I am a member of this Helicopter Working Group. We have had three meetings thus far, and are still very much in the information-gathering phase of our discussions and negotiations.

One thing has become clear- the helicopter ski operators have stated that they have not been operating in compliance with the map and/or skier day limits as presently permitted. So there has been a breach of trust between the heli-ski operators, the community and those who worked hard to come to a compromise.

Part of the reason the operators stated that they have not been in compliance is because the borderlines on the map apparently cut right into

the middle of the ski runs. The Helicopter Working Group is presently looking into amending the borders of the map so that the operators can more easily stay in compliance.

Regardless of how these map negotiations play out, the first step in resolving this issue is to ascertain where the helicopters are flying and where people are skiing at present. Implementing the requirement that a GPS tracking system be in place for the 2011 season can easily accomplish this. To AMG's credit, they have agreed to do this.

Another step in reaching resolution is coming up with voluntary flight paths, as recommended by our Borough Attorney. By creating voluntary flight paths, we no longer need to consider whether it is within our jurisdiction to dictate flight paths. As long as the heli-ski operators agree and follow these flight paths within reasonable limits, there will be no litigation.

With an agreement for **voluntary and verifiable flight routes and ski locations** in place, and at least one season under our belts to see that the companies have complied with the agreements, we can have a starting point to decide whether we should increase the number of companies and/or skier days. This can also go a long way to re-establishing trust between the community and the heli-ski operators.

Please allow the Helicopter Working Group a chance to do our job, to look into these issues in detail, and come up with a set of recommendations before approving AMG's request.

**Joe Ordonez**

**From:** michaelahmuty [mailto:michaelahmuty@chilkatguides.com]

**Sent:** Tuesday, December 14, 2010 12:36 PM

**To:** Julie Cozzi

**Subject:** Heli Ski tour permits

Hello Julie,

Hope you are making it through this cold snap.

I wanted to thank you and the Borough for the great festivities over the past few weeks.

They have been a delight for the entire family.

On a different note, I wanted to comment about the upcoming Helicopter Skiing permits.

Though I am an employee of Chilkat Guides, this comment is not endorsed by them and is not a reflection of the owners or company opinion.

As an 11 year resident of Haines I have seen a large amount of change and a fair amount of growth.

I feel the companies operating under Title 5 Commercial Tour permits, should abide by the regulations set forth in the permit.

Chapter 5.18, section 5.18.010 of Commercial Tour Permits states the title will, "regulate commercial tours to protect public safety and welfare."

In regards to public welfare I feel the attitudes of an operator, their willingness to work with community members, and elected officials should be examined when issuing or reinstating a permit.

I commend the Borough for forming the Heli - Ski Working Group to open and continue discussion between the public and private sector.

It is my opinion that section 5.18.080 General Standards have not been met by existing operators and further discussion is needed so that all operators have the ability to abide by the standards set forth.

With limited industry in Haines it is necessary to promote and improve upon our tourism industry.

Competition in the private sector often encourages growth and quality within a given industry.

I feel the Borough should entertain the idea of a third operator obtaining a Commercial Helicopter Skiing permit for the 2011 season for the above mentioned reasons.

Alaska Mountain Guides have been compliant with Borough code, have displayed an interest in improving upon the General Standards in Title 5 section 5.18.080, have been in good standing with the community and have a healthy safety record.

At this point I do not feel the Borough should deny any operators a permit this close to the start of the season. It would be a financial disaster to the operator and create a bad name for the town of Haines in the travel industry.

I appreciate all the hard work that the Borough, the Assembly and committee members have put forth towards this effort and hope it will continue.

Thank you for your time and have a great DAY!

Best Regards,

Michael Ahmuty

Chilkat Guides, Ltd.

Operations Manager

907-766-2491 Phone

907-766-2409 Fax

[michaelahmuty@chilkatguides.com](mailto:michaelahmuty@chilkatguides.com)

**\*\*Celebrating Over 30 Years of Excellence in Alaska.\*\***

**From:** Zbigniew Rozbicki [mailto:zbig@mojavewest.com]

**Sent:** Tuesday, December 14, 2010 4:34 PM

**To:** jcozzi@haines.ak.us

**Subject:** AMG Heli-ski ops

Julie,

Just a quick note to voice my support for the AMG Heli-Ski tour application.

Being as contentious doesn't even begin to describe the status of this issue in our valley, let me be clear on in my feelings on this topic.

#1. I believe Heli-skiing is currently providing a valuable cash influx to our community during a time of year when businesses need it desperately.

#2. I believe the Borough has an obligation to support responsible tour operators who are willing to work within whatever guidelines the community settles upon as being acceptable.

#3. I believe the Borough has an obligation to create a reasonable framework within which operators can operate profitably and safely with minimal impact to both locals and mountain goat populations.

#4. I further believe that the Borough has an obligation to develop a framework that, while it might limit flight paths and operating areas, does not ultimately limit the number of user days, nor the number of tour operators, so long as they are willing to work within the geographical parameters agreed upon by the community.

#5. I believe that compromises can be reached that will allow both growth in the industry and decreased impacts on the community and the wildlife.

By all accounts, AMG would seem to be a strong new participant in the local heli-ski industry.

Not only do they have a track record for working within permitted guidelines both Nationally and Internationally, they have also taken the time to engage in the public process around this issue.

I am also encouraged by their operating plan that would seem to limit local impacts by operating primarily out of the Haines Airport.

I encourage the Borough to work hard on this issue to come up with a solution that encourages local operators to work within the system instead of fighting against it. Given the legal costs and difficult legal issues involved, I believe the Borough has a fiduciary duty to the populace to create a structure that encourages both existing and new operators to play by the rules, by assuring them that they will be allowed to grow their businesses, so long as they are willing to work within reasonable and mutually agreeable standards.

Sincerely,

**Zbigniew Rozbicki**

Mojave West Insurance Services

zbig@mojavewest.com

AK Insurance License # 81759

WA Insurance License #764712

CA Insurance License # 0G49135

www.MojaveWest.com

www.facebook.com/mojavewest

AK (907) 766-2427

CA (415) 203-1499

E-Fax (415) 373-4654

PO Box 1363  
Haines, AK 99827  
December 13, 2010

Borough of Haines  
Attention: Julie Cozzi, Clerk and Haines Borough Assembly  
103 Third Ave.  
PO Box 1209  
Haines, AK 99827

Dear Julie and Assembly Members,

I have lived in Haines for 27 months. Before moving here, I was told Haines was one of the most free places to live. I understand Haines is not as free as it was 20 years ago, but definitely more free than the lower 48.

I have worked for Alaska Mtn Guides, since their purchase of the Mtn View Motel and property. These guys are the most respectable and honest people I have ever worked for. They have a lot going for Haines. They bring students to town, whether they are here in town awaiting their flight out in the field to explore ice climbing, long distant/overnight kayaking, or in classroom studies.

Having a heliskiing program with Alaska Mtn Guides would not only be a heliskiing program, but a teaching program. Whether from Haines or abroad, these kids and adults need to be trained properly. AMG works closely with colleges and universities nationwide. Alaska Mtn Guides Climbing School and International Wilderness Leadership School, this company name states exactly who and what they offer. To me, safety is the number one issue to address. To address safety, there must be educational knowledge provided. Alaska Mtn Guides does not and will not be dwelling on heliskiing alone. They provide lots of safety classes for different types of winter recreation and summer recreation.

Economically, we need this additional business. This will not only help myself being an employee, but will help many others in the community. Their students frequent so many different businesses. They are all the time asking where is this or that located.

In conclusion, lets keep Haines free and not make it like the lower 48. Let us have a heliskiing program for educational purposes and recreational purposes. We do not want to see our loved ones or others loved ones permanently injured or even worse, dead. Let's allow Alaska Mtn Guides to bring their heliskiing to Haines. They have done wonderful things for the children in this community. Let us see Haines come to life during the winter months.

Respectfully submitted,

Libby Ann Kurz

CC: Sean Gaffney, Jason Gaffney, and Eli Fierer

## Julie Cozzi

---

**From:** Julie Cozzi [jcozzi@haines.ak.us]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 18, 2011 12:42 PM  
**To:** 'Alaska Mountain Guides'  
**Subject:** FW: Alaska Mountain Guides Permit

Julie Cozzi, CMC

Borough Clerk  
Haines Borough  
P.O. Box 1209  
Haines, AK 99827  
907-766-2231, ext.31  
907-766-2716 (fax)  
[www.hainesborough.us](http://www.hainesborough.us)



Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail

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**From:** Adam [<mailto:adam@northlandexcursions.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, December 13, 2010 8:19 AM  
**To:** Julie Cozzi; Mark Earnest  
**Subject:** Alaska Mountain Guides Permit

Hello Mark,

I am writing in support of Alaska Mountain Guide's (AMG) request for a heli-skiing permit. AMG has proven to run a responsible and ethical business across the world and I believe they would bring those qualities to this very fragile industry. We would be fortunate as a community to have such a reputable company getting involved in this extremely fragile industry. If we're going to have heli-skiing operations in Haines, I couldn't think of a better company more suited to raise the bar and help alleviate alot of the issues created by this industry.

Thank you for your time and consideration!

Sincerely,  
Adam Patterson

## Julie Cozzi

---

**From:** Julie Cozzi [jcozzi@haines.ak.us]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 18, 2011 12:43 PM  
**To:** 'Alaska Mountain Guides'  
**Subject:** FW: Heliskiing Permit

Julie Cozzi, CMC

Borough Clerk  
Haines Borough  
P.O. Box 1209  
Haines, AK 99827  
907-766-2231, ext.31  
907-766-2716 (fax)  
[www.hainesborough.us](http://www.hainesborough.us)



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**From:** dtrails [<mailto:dustytrails.nwp@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, December 13, 2010 11:19 AM  
**To:** 'Julie Cozzi'  
**Subject:** Re:Heliskiing Permit

I support this application and permit for Alaska Mountain Guides

Gregg Johnson


## Julie Cozzi

---

**From:** Julie Cozzi [jcozzi@haines.ak.us]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 18, 2011 12:43 PM  
**To:** 'Alaska Mountain Guides'  
**Subject:** FW: Alaska Mountain Guides application

Julie Cozzi, CMC

Borough Clerk  
Haines Borough  
P.O. Box 1209  
Haines, AK 99827  
907-766-2231, ext.31  
907-766-2716 (fax)  
[www.hainesborough.us](http://www.hainesborough.us)

 Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail

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**From:** Christy Tengs [<mailto:christytengs@hotmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, December 13, 2010 11:25 AM  
**To:** [jcozzi@haines.ak.us](mailto:jcozzi@haines.ak.us)  
**Subject:** Alaska Mountain Guides application

Dear Borough Assembly,

I am writing in support of Alaska Mountain Guides and their recently submitted Helicopter tour permit application. The growth of the helicopter ski industry in Haines has been beneficial to our economy and my business. I believe Alaska Mountain Guides is an ideal candidate to be approved for a third commercial helicopter skiing permit as it is a local tour operation with vast experience and an exemplary record. Alaska Mountain Guides is a company with a conscience. Over the years, they have established a tradition of remarkable community service and an unparalleled dedication to the youth of Haines.

Thank you for your consideration.

Christy Tengs Fowler  
Bamboo Room Restaurant  
Pioneer Bar

December 13, 2010

Haines Borough Assembly Members  
P.O. Box 1209  
Haines, Alaska 99827

Re: Alaska Mountain Guides  
Helicopter tour permit application review Dec. 14th

Dear Assembly Members:

I am writing in support of the Alaska Mountain Guides', a local business, application to operate guided helicopter skiing and instructional courses within the Haines Borough. I am hopeful that the Borough Assembly and committees would consider having the growth of AMG's expansion of wintertime activities in Haines. They have a good track record, they support this community and local business. They are capable of working on and with committees for the benefit of all. This community needs every viable business year round and should not close it's doors to economic business. It means jobs, employees living in Haines year round and their children going to our schools. How can this not help our community?

Sincerely,

Beverly M. Jones  
King's Store, Inc.  
P.O. Box 610  
Haines, Alaska 99827

e-mail [jcozzi@haines.ak.us](mailto:jcozzi@haines.ak.us)


## Julie Cozzi

---

**From:** Julie Cozzi [jcozzi@haines.ak.us]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 18, 2011 12:44 PM  
**To:** 'Alaska Mountain Guides'  
**Subject:** FW: 12-14 letter to assm. amg tour permit

Julie Cozzi, CMC

Borough Clerk  
Haines Borough  
P.O. Box 1209  
Haines, AK 99827  
907-766-2231, ext.31  
907-766-2716 (fax)  
[www.hainesborough.us](http://www.hainesborough.us)

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**From:** norman hughes [<mailto:stormisurf@yahoo.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, December 13, 2010 5:25 PM  
**To:** [jcozzi@haines.ak.us](mailto:jcozzi@haines.ak.us)  
**Subject:** 12-14 letter to assm. amg tour permit

I support Alaska Mountain Guides 2011 heliskiing commercial tour permit request. I understand that this will not give AMG rights to go into operations until the the heli-skiing work group has finished its important work. I welcome their valuable insights in this process having operated in Alaska and the worlds great ranges. I have climbed to the roof of Africa (Kilimanjaro about the same height as Denali) with AMG in 2001. My summiting had its challenges, but was made possible by AMG and their professionalism in the mountains.

Captain Norman Hughes  
Po box 1136  
Haines, AK  
99827


## Julie Cozzi

---

**From:** Julie Cozzi [jcozzi@haines.ak.us]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 18, 2011 12:42 PM  
**To:** 'Alaska Mountain Guides'  
**Subject:** FW: Alaska Mt. Guides permit

Julie Cozzi, CMC

Borough Clerk  
Haines Borough  
P.O. Box 1209  
Haines, AK 99827  
907-766-2231, ext.31  
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 Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail

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**From:** Greg Podsiki [mailto:[gregpodsiki@yahoo.com](mailto:gregpodsiki@yahoo.com)]  
**Sent:** Sunday, December 12, 2010 9:33 PM  
**To:** [jcozzi@haines.ak.us](mailto:jcozzi@haines.ak.us)  
**Subject:** Fw: Alaska Mt. Guides permit

--- On **Sun, 12/12/10**, Greg Podsiki <[gregpodsiki@yahoo.com](mailto:gregpodsiki@yahoo.com)> wrote:

From: Greg Podsiki <[gregpodsiki@yahoo.com](mailto:gregpodsiki@yahoo.com)>  
Subject: Alaska Mt. Guides permit  
To: [jcozzi@haines](mailto:jcozzi@haines)  
Date: Sunday, December 12, 2010, 9:18 PM

Hi Julie, I can not make the assembly meeting on Tuesday but would like to add my two cents on this topic. Could you make sure everyone on the special committee as well as all assembly members get this in time to read it before the meeting? Thanks, Greg Podsiki

Dear assembly members,

Dec.12, 2010

I can not and will not represent Boy Scouts of America in this letter. The opinion in this letter is my own personnel one, although it is the product of working with Alaska Mountain Guides on Scouting activities.

I consider myself a piratical environmentalist. As with all my political opinions I prefer to come to independent conclusions developed from as much information as possible, not swayed by popular propaganda. I rarely give them in public.

There is much debate on the topic of helicopter use for transport of back country skiers and snowboarders. There is a fine line separating environmental damage, including noise pollution, and financial gain for the citizens of Haines. It is apparent that having a third business involved in this activity would increase both. Limits must be set. However, Alaska Mountain Guides is not a typical back country tour business. They, unlike other Helli-skiing businesses throughout the U.S. put the environment and safety first, financial gain second. Their love of outdoor adventure, respect to the environment and teaching that love and respect to their clients is their passion. The nightmare for you as a board created by some of our present Helli-ski businesses

will fade by involving them in your future development of regulations for all Helli-skiing activities in the Haines Borough.

I strongly encourage you to issue them a permit for guided helicopter skiing in the Haines Borough. I also strongly encourage you to keep them involved in the planing of Helli-skiing businesses in Haines. Alaska Mountain Guides will be a shinning example of proper Helli-skiing practices while putting respect for Haines citizens, regulations and the environment first. I have participated with Alaska Mountain guides working with youth for more than eight years. It has always been the same scenario: safety, and respect for local people and the environment first, fun second. From Davidson Glacier to summit of Mt. Kilimanjaro in East Africa this has been exemplified. "Leave no Trace" is a scout motto, and it is Alaska Mountain Guides motto as well. Not the smallest piece of paper, or food scrapes or human feces is left behind on any of their excursion. Even the displacement of rocks or drift wood is restricted. Wildlife is undisturbed whenever possible. These rules are enforced by their guides. I have never know better mentors for youth and adults as Alaska Mountain Guides. Perhaps because Sean and Jason Gafney were involve in scouting as youth they have become so environmentally conscious. They are professionals like no others who put countless hours of research and planning into every single adventure they guide. Haines could not have a better participant or friend than Alaska Mountain Guides, involved in the guided helicopter business.

Close examination of a map of the Haines Borough and our vast wilderness will conclude that it can accompany both another Helli- skiing company and respect to the citizens of Haines and the environment if that company is as exceptional as Alaska Mountain Guides. I hope you will welcome them to come on board.

Sincerely, Greg Podsiki

Box 915  
Fairbanks, AK

12/10/10

To: Fairbanks Borough;

I am writing to support Alaska Mountain Guides in their application for a Heli Skiing permit.

I had the opportunity to work for AMG this past summer as a guide and feel they are a respectable company that takes pride in offering quality experiences in their guiding programs. Their goal is to have all of their guides EMT certified as well which is a huge benefit to everyone in the backcountry.

I've found them to be open and honest and focused on providing safe, reliable experiences for guests as well as guides.

As a 25 year resident of Fairbanks, I've seen what a benefit to this community heli skiing provides during an otherwise very slow time of year.

I believe that granting a permit to Alaska Mountain Guides will increase money coming into the borough and they will be employing people to help in their business, another plus.

Hopefully they are granted this permit to operate. Their willingness to work on issues of compliance and boundaries will be helpful in creating and maintaining better relations in our community over the heli skiing business.

Sincerely,  
Sheer Erwin

## Julie Cozzi

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**From:** michael loverink [mloverink@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, January 21, 2011 8:42 AM  
**To:** climb@alaskamountainguides.com; jcozzi@haines.ak.us  
**Subject:** Support for the heli-skiing industry

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear Haines City and Borough,

Please accept this letter of support for Alaska Mountain Guides and their recently submitted Helicopter tour permit application. The growth of the helicopter ski industry in Haines has not only been beneficial to the local economy in the winter months, but also during the summer months. As the exposure of the beauty and serenity of Haines, AK spreads via television and the internet (because of the world class skiers and snow-boarders that are attracted to this area due to the heli-skiing videos) Haines will be a destination that many others - besides skiers, will want to visit.

I believe that Alaska Mountain Guides is an ideal candidate to be approved for a commercial helicopter skiing permit. It is a local tour operator with local knowledge of not only the area, but also of the ideals and principles that the City of Haines is needing and looking for in a local business. Over the years, Alaska Mountain Guides' experience has established an exemplary safety record, outstanding professionalism, and a tradition for remarkable community service. With all of the mountainous terrain surrounding Haines, I believe that the helicopter ski industry has room for growth, and the City and Borough of Haines would only benefit from having additional heli-ski operators.

It is because of Alaska Mountain Guides' proven record of professionalism, dedication to the community, and desire to promote the wonder and beauty of the Haines, AK that I give my full support!

Thank You for your consideration.

Michael Loverink

Air Excursions, LLC

## Julie Cozzi

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**From:** geoffrey nelson [hoonahdog\_67@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, January 21, 2011 10:18 AM  
**To:** climb@alaskamountainguides.com  
**Cc:** jcozzi@haines.ak.us  
**Subject:** AMG Heli Ski Tour Permit Application

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear Haines Borough,

I am writing in support of Alaska Mountain Guides and their recently submitted Helicopter tour permit application. The growth of the helicopter ski industry in Haines has been beneficial to our economy. I believe Alaska Mountain Guides is an ideal candidate to be approved for a commercial helicopter skiing permit as it is a local tour operation with vast experience and an exemplary record. Over the years Alaska Mountain Guides has established a tradition of remarkable community service and professionalism.

There is plenty of mountainous terrain surrounding Haines to support additional helicopter skiing. I believe that the helicopter ski industry and the town of Haines would benefit from having additional operators.

Thank you for your consideration.

Geoffrey T. Nelson , P.O.Box 1178 ,Haines,Ak

## Julie Cozzi

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**From:** Chuck Mitman [firehog@me.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 20, 2011 8:18 PM  
**To:** jcozzi@haines.ak.us; climb@alaskamountainguides.com  
**Cc:** Charles Mitman  
**Subject:** Alaska Mountain Guides Tour Permit App.

Attn; Haines Borough;

I am writing in support of Alaska Mountain Guides and their recent application for a Helicopter Tour Permit. One of the reasons I support AMG is that they will be operating out of the AIRPORT. Which is a good place for it. I live at 32.5 mile. I liked my privacy. Thats why we have 32 acres. And I still get to hear helicopters winter and summer with the mining at 33mile as well as helisking. we have had this property since 1998. I dont want to see the people at the farm or 18 mile lose their peace and quiet , as we did. I know the community could use this additional revenue generated by AMG. I believe their is enough wilderness to support 3 tour operators. I'd like to see them all run out of the airport..Alaska Mountain guides has a great track record here and in Skagway. Have always played by the rules. Has tried to PAY IT FORWARD as far as being community minded. and willing to "lend a Hand". That being said I would caution the Assembly that ANY member with a vested financial interest in one of the other Competing Heli Tour operators to book clients ; and in turn,their personal business would profit;( especially with out competition) Should abstain from voting on the issuance of a tour permit as it would not be Ethical..

Respectfully Submitted: Chuck Mitman

JOHN J. SCHNABEL  
P.O. BOX 149 HAINES, AK 99827 32  
(907) 766-2228 or Fax (907) 766-2881

RECEIVED

JAN 21 2011

January 20 2011 HAINES BOROUGH

HAINES BOROUGH ASSEMBLY  
HAINES ALASKA

DEAR ASSEMBLY MEMBERS

IT HAS BEEN BROUGHT TO MY ATTENTION THE BOROUGH IS IN THE PROCESS OF FINALIZING AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH GUIDELINES FOR HELICOPTER USE AND HELI SKIING. ALSO PENDING IS AN APPLICATION FROM ALASKA MT GUIDES FOR A PERMIT

AS A PROPERTY TAXPAYER I AM AWARE THAT INCREASING COSTS OF MUNICIPAL GOVT HAS FORCED THE BOROUGH TO RAISE TAXES AND DIP INTO THE RESERVES THAT WERE SET ASIDE YEARS AGO.

I AM HOPEFUL THAT BY ADDING TO THE INCOME FROM NEW BUSINESS WILL BE GIVEN SERIOUS THOUGHT AS A WAY TO HELP TOWARDS SOLVING THIS PROBLEM. THEREFORE I ENCOURAGE THE ASSEMBLY TO ISSUE A PERMIT TO ALASKA MT GUIDES WHICH WILL HELP ALL TAXPAYERS.

SINCERELY,

