



Subject: Housing Mitigation Rate Review

8/17/2020

Dear Members of the Town Council and Board of County Commissioners,

Throughout the Engage 2017 process, the following adoption of higher Housing Mitigation rates for business and the Legislative Session 2020, the Jackson Hole Chamber of Commerce has consistently supported Housing Mitigation as a tool for Teton County to create work force housing. However, we communicated our strong belief that raising the rates on business was the wrong thing to do, and the levels adopted were too high.

We know there is a very real pressure from the state legislature of a bill that would remove local control of housing mitigation as we approach the last quarter of 2020, and we believe all three of these observations are still true. As such we humbly suggest an efficient and expedient solution to the situation.

We suggest action to return the mitigation rates to the levels being used prior to the 2018 change. These rates created housing, were supported by businesses, and would avoid an unnecessary debate on a new, lower, interim set of rates to avoid potential legislative action.

We also suggest staff focus on getting ready for a 2020 Nexus Study which would include a complete analysis of the type and total contributions of businesses, not just employee generation.

Yours sincerely,

Anna Olson
President/CEO
Jackson Hole Chamber of Commerce