



Four Valleys Community School, Inc.
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Written testimony to the House Finance Committee re: House Bill 245

Thank you for hearing House Bill 245 establishing the Alyeska Snow Classic operated and run by Four Valleys Community School, Inc. Our organization and the community support this legislation. We request your support and vote to enact this charitable gaming event into law.

Since 1981 Four Valleys Community School (FVCS) programs are THE primary source of educational, recreational and cultural opportunities for community members of all ages in Girdwood, Indian, Bird Creek and Portage valleys. FVCS serves approximately 6,800 participants and has 700 volunteers. As an organization, FVCS has had a long and stable history of providing quality programs for the community.

I have been a community member for 34 years and involved with FVCS for 23 years as a volunteer, instructor, coordinator and board member. I have worked at 2 different community school sites as a coordinator and for 5 years I worked with the Healthy Futures initiative, a statewide movement to get our youth more physically active and lead healthier lifestyles.

Girdwood's year round recreation program through FVCS is a MODEL. From cross country running, to fall trail running, to indoor soccer, to downhill skiing through Girdwood School PE, to Nordic skiing, to gymnastics, to outdoor soccer, to spring trail running, to softball, to baseball, to wrestling, **Girdwood has it going on for our youth and adults alike.** Annually, we offer more than 200 classes. Adult programs include physical recreation, cooking, sewing, fine arts & crafts, special interest and online classes.

Since 1984 FVCS has administered public funds awarded to it by the Girdwood Board of Supervisors (GBOS) for programs identified by the community as important. All of the awarded monies go to provide direct services for the community. To help with funding FVCS has actively established more collaborations and partnerships with local businesses, nonprofits and private donors to provide the full spectrum of services the Four Valleys community seeks. Volunteers contribute their talents and time to support a wide range of activities. Whether it is individual or family growth, FVCS provides many opportunities to learn, serve and recreate. We make a substantial effort to sustain our activities but still need to request yearly grant funds from the Girdwood Board of Supervisors.

We have utilized gaming activities to raise funds and the community has supported these events. Years ago, our Monte Carlo night was a very successful and popular event that raised substantial funds for the organization. When gaming regulations changed we were unable to hold this event again. Also, we have used pull tabs, bingo nights and raffles. We understand and follow the gaming regulations and reporting requirements.

House Bill 245 will allow Four Valleys to control our own financial destiny. In a small community of 2000 all of the organizations and projects solicit community support. We all fund raise and donate and manage to meet these challenges by drawing from this small pool of people and businesses in the community.

The Alyeska Snow Classic would allow us to:

- Raise funds to support our mission of providing educational, recreational and cultural enrichment to the four valleys
- Utilize other resources beyond the community to support FVCS's services
- Eliminate dependence on property tax dollars through GBOS grants
- Meet FVCS's goal of self-sufficiency

House Bill 245 does not require new gaming regulations but expands on what is already enacted. It would allow FVCS to help ourselves. Please give us this opportunity.

I respectfully request your support of House Bill 245 creating the charitable gaming event called the Alyeska Snow Classic.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Reichlin, Chair
Four Valleys Community School, Inc.