



**City of Gustavus**  
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December 7, 2021

Superintendent Philip Hooge  
Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve  
PO Box 140  
Gustavus, AK 99826

Dear Superintendent Hooge:

**Subject: Comments by City of Gustavus on Lodge Housing Replacement Project**

The City of Gustavus has reviewed the environmental assessment and plans for the Glacier Bay Lodge Housing Replacement Project. The City supports and encourages the adoption of *Alternative 2 Construct Concessions Employee Housing and Associated Facilities*. All facilities at Glacier Bay National Park should meet the highest quality standards achievable as worthy of a great national park.

Glacier Bay Lodge is an anchor for the Gustavus visitor economy, a major employer, and an important contributor of room and sales tax revenue to the City of Gustavus. When Glacier Bay Lodge does well, so do our city and community.

The existing Lodge employee housing dorms are worn, outdated, have code compliance issues, and are generally inadequate to house the staff needed to operate Glacier Bay Lodge. Concession employees should have safe, healthy, functional housing. The existing facilities and their immediate grounds do not meet the appearance expectations of modern national park facilities. Inadequate dormitory capacity means some staff have been housed in lodge rooms intended for visitor use. During high visitor demand periods some prospective visitors may not be accommodated due to staff occupancy of rooms.

New, larger, code-compliant facilities will contribute to employee well-being, which in turn will enhance service quality for visitors. The new maintenance shop will consolidate work, equipment, and waste storage to a single, functional, and attractive structure. Removal of the three existing dorm structures and two small sheds, and construction of neatly arranged parking will improve site appearance. We approve of the plan to install electric vehicle charging stations at the parking area.

With these thoughts, the City of Gustavus is pleased to encourage the adoption of Alternative 2. We look forward to seeing the facility constructed and in service.

Sincerely,

Mike Taylor  
Mayor, City of Gustavus