

MAYOR
ROGER BOURKE

TOWN COUNCIL
CAROLYN ANCTIL
JOHN BYRNE
SHERIDAN DAVIS
ELISE MORGAN



TOWN OF ALTA
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Exhibit A

The following written public comments were received are to be included in the June 21, 2023 Town council meeting minutes.

<u>Pages</u>	<u>Document</u>	<u>Date Received</u>
2 - 3	Town of Alta Business Owners	May 25, 2023

May 23, 2023

Mayor Roger Bourke
Council Member Elise Morgan
Council Member Sheridan Davis
Council Member Carolyn Anctil
Council Member John Byrne
Town of Alta, Utah

Honorable Mayor and Council Members,

We are calling upon you urgently not to raise sales taxes as being considered in the tentative budget passed on May 10, 2023.

The proposed sales tax increases would be harmful to the lodging businesses in our community. The myth of lodging taxes is that they are paid by “visitors.” As Senator Russell B. Long put it, “Don’t tax you, don’t tax me, tax that fellow behind the tree.” In reality, by taxing “visitors,” a lodging tax makes the community’s lodging more expensive and less competitive with other areas. The current Alta lodging tax rate is 13.82%. With Snowbird lodging tax at 12.32% and Park City lodging tax at 13.37%, Alta lodging is already at a competitive disadvantage. An additional 1.1% would cripple our ability to compete, and ultimately our ability to thrive in our community and provide livelihoods to our employees.

There is no good reason for a sales tax increase. We support Town budget priorities such as salary and wage increases. Taking those priorities into account, the Town is not facing a budget shortfall. The tentative budget calls for 2023-2024 sales tax revenue of \$1.945 million. At the May 10, 2023 Town Council meeting, current year sales total tax receipts were estimated at \$1.842 million, even taking account of the April road closures. With only 5% increase to current prices, at current sales levels and tax rates, we can conservatively project 2023-2024 sales tax revenue of \$1.934 million – and the Town would still have a significant budget surplus. There is no reason to raise taxes.

Let’s ask ourselves about the potential harm to our community. What has been the process leading up to this proposal? Have Alta residents, voters and businesses asked for a tax increase? Has anyone asked them? Over many years, Alta businesses have contributed generously to many community causes that were not to their own benefit, including the resort shuttle programs. It is our local businesses that make livelihoods for residents and employees, and

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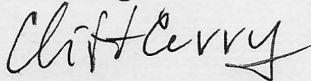
May 23, 2023
Page 2

make it possible for Alta to thrive as a community. If the Town uses its compulsory taxing power to extract the maximum amount possible from those businesses, the businesses will ultimately be diminished, and will have less ability to make voluntary contributions.

Please maintain the current sales tax rates, and do not use the governmental taxing power of the Town in a way that damages our local Alta businesses.

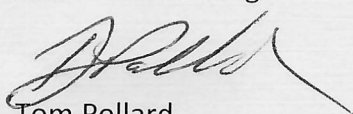
Sincerely,

Alta Lodge



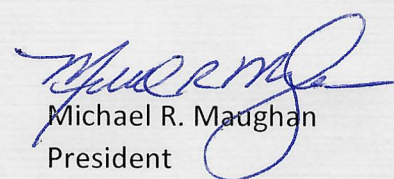
Cliff Curry
President

Alta's Rustler Lodge



Tom Pollard
General Manager

Alta Ski Area




Michael R. Maughan
President

Alta Peruvian Lodge



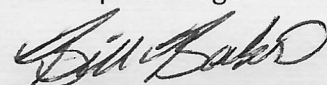
Todd Collins
General Manager

Goldminer's Daughter Lodge



Zack Colman
General Manager

Snowpine Lodge



Bill Babis
General Manager