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Dear Mayor Scott and Haines Borough Assembly:

I was shocked and saddened to learn of your recent decision to abruptly terminate the lease of the Human Resources Building with Chilkat Valley Preschool (CVP) as of June 2014. This seems like a hasty decision to me and does not allow the CVP Board of Directors and involved community members enough time to find a new building for this valuable and critical organization in Haines.

A recently published article in the *Chilkat Valley News* indicated that in the past year Haines population decreased by approximately 86 residents, and also stated that the Haines Borough is becoming the oldest community in the State of Alaska. These are 2 aspects of our changing demographic makeup which hinder economic development and consequently growth of the Haines Borough. Important goals of the Haines Borough should be to encourage growth of our economy and to encourage a productive population base. Families are principal to achievement of these goals. The CVP directly helps families provide educational and social opportunity for their young children, at a very reasonable cost, and has become a big part of my 4-year old daughter's life. She gains experiences there which cannot be obtained anywhere else.

In fact, the CVP improves the quality of life for up to 35 families in the Haines Borough, and enhances our young children's upbringing in the process. I couldn't think of a more cost effective, wholesome organization that impacts so many lives and at the same time provides for the future of Haines, by helping parents provide necessary services for their children.

I have lived here for 18 years and have watched countless families leave Haines over the years; one major reason for their departure has been lack of opportunity for their children. If Haines hopes to restore some things that we have lost, like productive, working families, we need to ensure that the Chilkat Valley Preschool remains strong.

Ironically, as a function of our declining community and economy, Haines has limited housing and rental options, and the June 1 timeframe threatens operations of the CVP. I strongly urge you to renew the lease of the Human Resources Building with CVP for the 2014-2015 school year. This time frame will allow adequate time to find and secure a new location so the CVP can continue their excellent standard of early education. Thank you in earnest for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Brian W. Elliott