

From: [Mike Armour](#)
To: [Alekka Fullerton](#); [Annette Kreitzer](#); [Tom Morphet](#)
Subject: Letter in support of rescinding HBC 3.70.40 (F)(1) paragraph d
Date: Wednesday, April 3, 2024 7:48:00 AM

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To: The Haines Borough Assembly

This letter is written in support of abolishing that portion of HBC Exemptions and Exclusions 3.70.40 (F)(1) paragraph (d) which reads.

d. Have net worth as of the date of application of less than \$250,000 including the first \$150,000 of the market value of the principal residence of the applicant.

Nowhere within the entirety of Alaska State Statute AS 29.45.030. of Required Exemptions and Exclusions is any municipality within the state authorized to disqualify a Hardship Exemption affiant based solely on the assessed value of their principal residence.

The why and how this code came into being is irrelevant as is the arbitrary figure chosen of \$250,000 as the Borough does not now, nor did it ever have the authority to pass such an onerous and illegal restriction on its citizenry regardless of the dollar amount involved.

It's almost impossible to imagine the damage this has done to residents of this community over the decades who by all rights are entitled to such an exemption only to find that they do not qualify. Ask the Assessor or the Borough Clerk how many people have ever successfully applied for this exemption and the answer you'll get is somewhere between 0 and 1. Surely, that's not because we have no qualified seniors living in our community. It's because this single line of code blocks them from ever filing the documents.

I personally have filed for a hardship exemption meeting all of the demands required by State Law and those outlined in Borough Code with the exception of the \$250,00 limit imposed by 3.70.40 (F)(1) paragraph (d) to both serve as an example and to bring this issue before the Assembly.

- The Assembly must immediately rescind this illegal asset restriction.
- The Assembly should then allow a 30 day filing extension for applicants.
- The Borough should then make a Public Announcement of these changes.

Respectfully,

Michael T. Armour