



GRAND TARGHEE RESORT

May 21, 2026

Mark Newcomb
Chair, Teton County Wyoming Board of Commissioners
P.O. Box 3594
200 South Willow Street
Jackson, WY 83001

Re: Joint Workshop on Cross-Jurisdictional Socioeconomic Effects

Dear Commissioner Newcomb:

I am responding to your May 11, 2026 letter inviting me to participate in a facilitated workshop about perceived interstate socioeconomic effects of the Grand Targhee Resort Master Development Plan project. Your letter invited my ideas about the structure or goals of the workshop. Here it is: I will participate in a facilitated workshop if it is reframed and restructured to be a good faith discussion about the socioeconomic landscape shared by Teton County, Wyoming and Teton County, Idaho, and the real issues affecting the two counties.

That is not the workshop proposed. The proposed workshop assumes that our ski area improvement proposal is, somehow, responsible for, and the source of, the regional socioeconomic issues of which we are all aware. Grand Targhee is but a tile in a much larger mosaic. Grand Targhee is not the reason Teton County, Wyoming is the richest county in the United States. Grand Targhee is not the reason the New York Times labeled Jackson, Wyoming "[the frontier of America's new gilded age.](#)" Grand Targhee is not the reason people commute over Teton Pass daily from Idaho because they cannot afford to live in Teton County, Wyoming. Grand Targhee did not draw the state line where it is located, creating political, social, and economic challenges for both states and counties. Nor did Grand Targhee create the Idaho tax laws that make it difficult for County governments to deal with rapid population growth that is happening in resort communities throughout Idaho and the west.

All of these factors, and many more, are far larger than Grand Targhee. Yet the workshop proposal frames Grand Targhee as the scapegoat, as has Teton County, WY for years. The Ruckelshaus Institute, the purported neutral facilitator, accepted that framing in its [project proposal](#), assuming that the interstate socioeconomic issues are sourced in the Grand Targhee ski area improvement project. I am not aware that Teton County implemented this



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approach with other businesses. Has the County convened a facilitated interstate workshop to address the impacts on Teton County, ID of any other businesses, activities, approvals, or decisions made by Teton County, WY? I am not going to participate in the ongoing efforts of Teton County, WY to try to pin the massive impacts Teton County, WY has on Teton County, ID solely on me, my business, guests, and employees.

I am a proud resident of Teton County, WY. As a business owner in both Teton County, WY and Teton County, ID, I support jobs in and the economic viability of both counties. I am invested in ensuring a productive and cooperative working relationship between the two states and counties. Please let me know if the workshop concept is reframed and restructured to focus on the socioeconomic challenges between the two counties and states rather than, myopically, on Grand Targhee.

Sincerely,

Geordie Gillett
Grand Targhee Resort