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**Cc:** [Council Dist List](#)  
**Subject:** Future of Commission on Special Events (CSE)  
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Madame Mayor and fellow Council members,

I had hoped to attend this afternoon's session and to be there for the important discussion on the "Special Events Funding Model", but unfortunately I was called out of town at the last minute. I apologize for not being able to attend in person.

First, let me say thank you for supporting this effort. As you know from my public comments on this, both during CSE meetings and before the Council, I am a passionate believer in using research and facts to drive smart decisions, particularly when taxpayer dollars are involved. Since the Council first gave me the honor of serving on the CSE, I have always striven to uphold my responsibilities to ensure we were acting in the best interest of the town and the community we represent. It is why I pushed for us to have a full review of how the town evaluates and funds special events. I believe that the statutory authority and responsibility given to the CSE is vital in helping to protect the town's interests and drive maximum value and oversight on how dollars are allocated and spent towards underwriting and supporting events.

It is for these reasons that I am concerned that there is a desire by town staff to dismantle this very important commission. I hope as the council looks to strengthen the metrics by which decisions are made to allocate public dollars in support of events, they will also continue to support the role and authority that the CSE currently has. Given the massive amount of issues before the Council, from employee housing to long term planning around exciting initiatives like the West Vail redevelopment efforts, I believe the CSE needs to be supported and strengthened to maximize its ability to support and protect the larger efforts of the Council.

When it is all said and done, we are a destination "town" and the quality of the programming we present is critical for supporting the vibrant and wonderful place we call home. I hope I will continue to have the honor to serve on this important Commission and to support the important work of the Council and this amazing community. Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

V/R  
Douglas A. Smith, Commission on Special Events  
West Vail