

**From:** Sandra Christopherson  
**To:** [AMCO Admin \(CED sponsored\)](#); [Hamilton, Joe \(CED\)](#); [Klinkhart, Glen Edward \(CED\)](#); [AMCO Event Permits \(CED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Hope Creekbend Problem  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 7, 2020 4:46:07 PM

---

To the AMCO Board:

I would like to report my concerns to the board regarding the Hope AK Creekbend Cafe. This cafe has become a very popular destination for summer band events with crowds, sometimes hundreds of people, coming to Hope to hear a particular band. I am concerned about several issues but they are all connected to the alcohol permit which draws people to this venue.

I have been a resident of Hope since 1974, when we purchased land and built a cabin about 1/3 of a mile from the Discovery Cafe. Our pattern has been to move from Anchorage in May and stay at our cabin in Hope until early September, coming often for weekends and holiday during the remainder of the year. Now we have family members close by who also have cabins on this land and we enjoy our small grandchildren there.

The introduction of the Creekbend to our experience in Hope has not been pleasant. This past summer we were shocked into the regularity of weekends with very loud bands, incredible congestion of the roads in the town, crowded parking on both sides of the streets, camping on our property, and camping in the cars parked on the street. All of this brings several concerns about safety of our area which is so close to the venue, where drunken driving, evident human waste in the woods, and continuous noise after hours keeps us all awake. Last summer brought the increased worry that these partiers would inadvertently start a fire in our town. We no longer can sit on our deck on a summer weekend evening and enjoy a conversation. Inviting friends to join us who don't happen to enjoy the music playing so loudly is now unthinkable. Our whole summer experience has had to change.

Our cabin is close enough so that I have checked the decibel level of the noise, only to find that it varies from 60 to 90 on a given evening.

This is great imposition on our lifestyle and peace of mind. We chose to be in Hope because it is a quiet and an out of the way place to be. That has now changed.

I would like to see the Creekbend concerts ended. I worry about the alcohol, the sanitation issues, the safety issues, the loss of privacy. Please do not renew the alcohol permit for Creekbend outdoor concerts.

Sincerely,

Sandra Christopherson

**From:** timothy silbaugh  
**To:** [AMCO Admin \(CED sponsored\)](#); [Hamilton, Joe \(CED\)](#); [Alcohol, CED AMCO \(CED sponsored\)](#); [CED AMCO Enforcement \(CED sponsored\)](#); [AMCO Event Permits \(CED sponsored\)](#); [Klinkhart, Glen Edward \(CED\)](#); [Dufresne, Jennifer R \(CED\)](#)  
**Subject:** DENIAL of permit/license for Creekbend Co in Hope, Alaska  
**Date:** Thursday, January 9, 2020 1:02:28 PM

---

Dear Members of the Alcohol Marijuana Control Board,

My wife, Catherine Coward, and I own property and live part time in Hope, Alaska, and are writing to express our concern regarding the business model and current operations associated with the Creekbend Company music and party venue. We are writing this email together, but will submit it separately to reflect our two community voices.

Catherine and I have owned property and have lived in Hope preceding the entrance of Creekbend Co to the Hope community. We have serious concerns regarding the Creekbend Co's current business model and operations. Specifically, we are writing to request that the Creekbend's alcohol and permitting license be DENIED for the 2020 season.

The Creekbend Co, owned and operated by Mr. Steve Thomas, is an outdoor party venue located in the center of the small and traditionally quiet residential community of Hope. Since its inception in 2018, the Creekbend has drawn large, raucous, and boisterous party crowds to Hope. Mr. Thomas has not adequately responded to community concerns to promote public safety, to protect private property, or to respect late night noise limits. The result has been a wave of patrons camping and parking on private land, drunkenly wandering the streets, and driving intoxicated on the otherwise quiet main road. Very near our house, one intoxicated driver hit our neighbor's truck that was parked on the side of the road, which is frequented by families and children biking and walking.

In a series of Hope community meetings, Mr. Thomas has offered to make changes to minimize the negative impacts of his business on our community. However, in practice, his business operations have not changed and to some degree have worsened. Our primary concerns remain in spite of Mr. Thomas' claims that he is working with the community; the excessive volume, the lack of services for camping and sanitation, the uncontrolled intoxication of guests, and the lack of adherence to a reasonable closing time.

My wife and I both enjoy local music, and have appreciated a couple of the shows at Creekbend. We witnessed the following first hand: First, the volume was in excess of what was needed to enjoy the show, to the point that we were forced to wear earplugs due the excessive volume. Second, the shows continued to run much later than agreed upon. In one instance, Mr. Thomas stood at the mic on stage and said "We're supposed to stop the music

now, but do you all want to hear more?" After a loud cheer from many in the crowd, the music continued much later into the night. Third, we have witnessed a parade of honking cars and motorcycles speeding down Hope Main street leaving the venue just after midnight.

As Hope property owners and part time residents, we are disturbed by Mr. Thomas' inability to work with neighbors who are desperately trying to provide a safe community for our children, get a good night's sleep, and keep their property clean and safe.

In short, Creekbend has been notified many times of the Hope community's legitimate concerns and viable options. To date, Mr. Thomas has shown a disinterest in modifying his business practice. We remain negatively impressed by the unsustainable crowds, the level of unbridled intoxication, the parade of drunken revelers, and the camping and parking on private property. Please do not relicense the Creekbend Co to continue in the Hope community.

Thank you,

Tim Silbaugh

19760 Hope Hwy

**From:** Cat Coward  
**To:** [AMCO Admin \(CED sponsored\)](#); [Hamilton, Joe \(CED\)](#); [Alcohol, CED AMCO \(CED sponsored\)](#); [CED AMCO Enforcement \(CED sponsored\)](#); [AMCO Event Permits \(CED sponsored\)](#); [Klinkhart, Glen Edward \(CED\)](#); [Dufresne, Jennifer R \(CED\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please DENY permit/license for Creekbend Co, Hope Alaska  
**Date:** Thursday, January 9, 2020 1:05:43 PM

---

Dear Members of the Alcohol Marijuana Control Board,

My husband, Tim Silbaugh, and I own property and live part time in Hope, Alaska, and are writing to express our concern regarding the business model and current operations associated with the Creekbend Company music and party venue. We are writing this email together, but will submit it separately to reflect our two community voices.

Tim and I have owned property and have lived in Hope preceding the entrance of Creekbend Co to the Hope community. We have serious concerns regarding the Creekbend Co's current business model and operations. Specifically, we are writing to request that the Creekbend's alcohol and permitting license be DENIED for the 2020 season.

The Creekbend Co, owned and operated by Mr. Steve Thomas, is an outdoor party venue located in the center of the small and traditionally quiet residential community of Hope. Since its inception in 2018, the Creekbend has drawn large, raucous, and boisterous party crowds to Hope. Mr. Thomas has not adequately responded to community concerns to promote public safety, to protect private property, or to respect late night noise limits. The result has been a wave of patrons camping and parking on private land, drunkenly wandering the streets, and driving intoxicated on the otherwise quiet main road. Very near our house, one intoxicated driver hit our neighbor's truck that was parked on the side of the road, which is frequented by families and children biking and walking.

In a series of Hope community meetings, Mr. Thomas has offered to make changes to minimize the negative impacts of his business on our community. However, in practice, his business operations have not changed and to some degree have worsened. Our primary concerns remain in spite of Mr. Thomas' claims that he is working with the community; the excessive volume, the lack of services for camping and sanitation, the uncontrolled intoxication of guests, and the lack of adherence to a reasonable closing time.

My husband and I both enjoy local music, and have appreciated a couple of the shows at Creekbend. We witnessed the following first hand: First, the volume was in excess of what was needed to enjoy the show, to the point that we were forced to wear earplugs due the excessive volume. Second, the shows continued to run much later than agreed upon. In one instance, Mr. Thomas stood at the mic on stage and said "We're supposed to stop the music

now, but do you all want to hear more?" After a loud cheer from many in the crowd, the music continued much later into the night. Third, we have witnessed a parade of honking cars and motorcycles speeding down Hope Main street leaving the venue just after midnight.

As Hope property owners and part time residents, we are disturbed by Mr. Thomas' inability to work with neighbors who are desperately trying to provide a safe community for our children, get a good night's sleep, and keep their property clean and safe.

In short, Creekbend has been notified many times of the Hope community's legitimate concerns and viable options. To date, Mr. Thomas has shown a disinterest in modifying his business practice. We remain negatively impressed by the unsustainable crowds, the level of unbridled intoxication, the parade of drunken revelers, and the camping and parking on private property. Please do not relicense the Creekbend Co to continue in the Hope community.

Thank you,

Catherine Coward

17960 Hope Hwy

**From:** Holly Brooks  
**To:** [AMCO Admin \(CED sponsored\)](#); [Hamilton, Joe \(CED\)](#); [Alcohol, CED AMCO \(CED sponsored\)](#); [CED AMCO Enforcement \(CED sponsored\)](#); [AMCO Event Permits \(CED sponsored\)](#); [Glen.klinkart@alaska.gov](mailto:Glen.klinkart@alaska.gov); [Dufresne, Jennifer R \(CED\)](#)  
**Subject:** Creekbend Cafe Complaint/Concerns from Holly Brooks (RE: Hope, AK)  
**Date:** Friday, January 10, 2020 1:15:57 PM

---

Mr. Klinkhart and Alcohol/Marijuana Control Board Members,

My family has owned property and constructed our dream cabin in Hope over the past ten years. We use our place extensively during the summers. Recently, the past two summers, the Creekbend Café has been quite the gathering place for partiers, inebriates, and general debauchery, all whom have zero regard for the local residents and property owners.

Myself and many other property owners have filed numerous complaints with the AMCO board and the State Troopers, as documented on the Kenai Borough website. The owners of the Creekbend Café have shown disregard for the Hope residents and the right to privacy of surrounding property owners. The owners have ignored a multitude of complaints ranging from deafening 120+ decibel noise levels, rampant illegal double parking downtown, sanitation issues, defecation on private property, trespassing, illegal drug use and drunk driving.

The small town of Hope will not tolerate the general bad behavior and cannot handle the influx of 1000+ revelers each summer weekend. In fact, I will not even let my kids wander around or bike downtown any more, as it is too unsafe now. Not to mention my children cannot sleep at night due to the noise.

My husband and I built in Hope because of its small close-knit community and it being a safe place for children and pedestrians. We have a right to neighboring privacy (a state statute) and solitude.

This past summer, a motorist high on methamphetamines crashed their car on the Hope Hwy. This vehicle is still on the side of the road. This is a constant reminder of the summer partying and revelry at the Creekbend Café. It is only a matter of time before there is a fatal accident due to alcohol on the highway, as a result of excessive alcohol consumption at the café.

I am urging the board to strongly consider denying the renewal of the Creekbend's license and special events permit beyond basic restaurant activities associated with the café. Enough is enough.

Thank you for listening to my comments and concerns.

Sincerely,

Holly Brooks

--

Holly Brooks

<http://hollybrooks.com>

phone: +1 907-350-8349

Twitter: @brooksha1

Facebook: Holly Brooks LLC

**From:** Maggie Holeman  
**To:** [Alcohol, CED AMCO \(CED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Creekbend  
**Date:** Saturday, January 11, 2020 8:52:50 AM

---

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Maggie Holeman <maggieholeman@icloud.com>  
**Date:** January 11, 2020 at 8:49:40 AM AKST  
**To:** Maggie Holeman <maggieholeman@icloud.com>  
**Subject:** Creekbend

My name is Maggie Holeman and I run a Bed and Breakfast in Hope, Alaska. In August of 2017 the Chamber of Commerce sent a survey to all the property owners in Hope inquiring what brought them to Hope and what direction would they prefer to see the future of Hope. In short what brought the majority to Hope was the peace and quiet. The majority answered a slow and meticulous growth. (Survey iavailable upon request) Hope is an unincorporated historical village of approximately 180 residences. With the arrival of new owners of Creekbend and their concerts, we have experienced a tremendous increase of unlawful activity including drugs, drunk driving, excessive noise, safety and health issues as well as community disrespect. As a BnB owner I have been negatively impacted by the noise I hear 3 miles from the concert. My guests have recoiled at the sights observed downtown on weekends. I now close my BnB on weekends during the concerts. I would ask your agency to consider not renewing the liquor license for Creekbend as well as restricting their service area if the license is renewed. Owners of Creekbend have exploited our way of life to line their pocketbook at the demise of this entire village.

Sincerely  
Maggie Holeman

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** Barbra Bureau  
**To:** [Alcohol, CED AMCO \(CED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Creekbend Company permit  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 14, 2020 2:49:15 PM

---

I am writing to voice my concern for the negative impact the Creekbend Co in Hope has had on our community the last two summers. I have lived in Hope since 1995. My husband and I had a tourism business as well as nightly cabin rentals there for twenty years. We raised our son there. It is a most awesome community but not without its growing pains. We've seen businesses and people come and go, and occasionally there are those who want to change the character of Hope, in the name of "improvement", but for the most part they've either realized Hope is not suited to their idea of change and they leave, or they've made adjustments to their plan, working with locals and taking into consideration the general sentiment of the town.

Steve Thomas, the owner of Creekbend Company has done neither. He arrived in Hope with a business dream and a "to hell with the rest of you" attitude to go along with it. He brought in mostly Outside employers, who were also unfamiliar with small town politics. His concerts and events have dominated our town nearly every weekend for two summers. He's been approached by many local residents, by phone, email, text, imploring him to listen to suggestions and concerns. Most of these requests have been ignored; I wrote him three times and left a couple phone messages and have heard nothing back.

The impact this one business has had on our town is astounding. We do have other bars, restaurants and music venues, none of which have caused the problems that Creekbend has. The sudden increase of traffic on our two lane windy road on Fridays is frightening. The illegal camping, parking, trespassing, noise level and general disregard for property owners is completely unacceptable. In all my years here, I've never seen so many "No

Trespassing” and “Private Property” signs sprout up on private residences. People are putting up electric fencing, sawhorses and logs across driveways, in an attempt to discourage the masses of weekend people from camping and parking on their land.

We have no law enforcement here in Hope. If troopers are called, it may take them hours to get here from Seward or Soldotna, not to mention that it potentially takes one of the few law enforcement officers we have on the peninsula off the dangerous highway to come all the way to Hope for a disturbance. But the danger is real, many of these people that come to Creekbend’s music events drive back to Girdwood or Anchorage, clearly inebriated. And for those that choose to stay the night, there is very little infrastructure in Hope to accommodate them (this is by choice and financial necessity as many locals do not wish for more parking lots or campgrounds, nor is the money or land available for such). So they park and camp along our narrow dirt roads, on both sides blocking traffic flow, or on private property, mostly without bathroom facilities, and often with their loose dogs. Many Hope residents with small children have sadly had to adapt their cherished “let the kids run free in downtown Hope” attitude due to the influx of strangers on weekends. When we were still operating our nightly cabin rentals, we had regulars who for years would come on weekends with their kids to enjoy the quiet of Hope, but stopped due to the increase in traffic and noise.

My plea to you is to please consider revoking Creekbend’s permit for summer 2020, or at the very least, adjust the conditions of their permit which might force them to be more respectful neighbors in our community.

Thank you for your time,  
Barbra Bureau

--

Barbra Bureau

PO Box 64

Hope, AK 99605

(907) 782-3730 home

(907) 782-3725 fax

(907) 244-1902 cell

[bjbureau@gmail.com](mailto:bjbureau@gmail.com)

**From:** Williams, Tania (NAZ-V)  
**To:** [Alcohol, CED AMCO \(CED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** A few quick Alcohol registration questions  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 15, 2020 11:03:23 AM

---

Hi,

I am trying to update a few things for our legal department & also learn different state laws. I went to your website and looked around & clicked on a few links but I am not seeing anything that really answers my questions.

I appreciate any assistance & knowledge you can share.

- 1. Some states have shipping regulations as far as size of pallets, containers etc. Does Alaska have any & if so what are they? Or is that something that is up to the wholesalers to decide?
- 
- 2. Assuming that you need to register a new brand/label with the state after TTB; what is the turn time generally of that?
- 
- 3. Any certain regulations as far as labels like size of the Serving Size panel?
- 
- 4. Is there a max or min size of serving that is not allowed (ex: are 24 oz. cans allowed)? Is there a max of ABV for Malt Beers/Wines depending on the can/bottle size?
- 
- 5. Does Alaska have a max ABV on Beers/wines?

Is there anything else as far Alaska regulations that would be helpful to know that I may not have asked?

Thank you

*Tania M. Williams*  
**Innovations Legal Support**



One Busch Place, 202-7  
St. Louis, MO 63118  
314-577-9715

[Tania.Williams@Anheuser-busch.com](mailto:Tania.Williams@Anheuser-busch.com)

#Challenge Accepted

Help save paper - do you need to print this email?

This communication is confidential and is intended to be privileged pursuant to applicable law. If you are not the intended recipient, or the employee, or agent responsible for delivering it to the intended recipient, You are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution, Copying or use of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you receive this message in error, please notify sender immediately.

Anheuser-Busch InBev Email Disclaimer: <http://www.ab-inbev.com/email-disclaimer.html>

**From:** Tor Christopherson  
**To:** [Alcohol, CED AMCO \(CED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Creekbend Co. - Hope Alaska - Please Consider Denying 2020 Permit  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 15, 2020 11:57:36 AM

---

To: Alcoholic Beverage Control Board Members,

1-15-2020

Hi, my name is Tor Christopherson and I am writing you to share concerns I have about the Creekbend Co. in Hope, Alaska. I have lived in Hope seasonally since 1981. My wife Rhianne and I, and our two kids, ages 2 and 5, have a place on 5<sup>th</sup> street. My boys and I live full time in Hope in the summer.

I believe our cabin is the closest cabin or house to the Creekbend venue, at roughly 800 feet (as the crow flies). Long story short: the venue is extremely loud, and it is destroying the peace and tranquility of Hope, and my cabin. Every time the Creekbend Company hosts a music show, 2<sup>nd</sup> street lines up with cars, people pee and poop in the woods, and I don't feel safe letting my kids ride their bikes through town as it is full of inebriated people walking and driving through town.

Rhianne and I carefully picked out our cabin site so that it was within earshot of the babble from middle creek. We love, or used to love, falling asleep to the soothing noise of the creek. Now our kids ask us why there is music coming from the woods, and they have trouble falling asleep, as do Rhianne and I. We now leave all of our windows closed at night, and we blare two white noise machines. If I can fall asleep, it's with a pillow over my head.

One weekend from last summer stands out to me. It was in June, and we had 3 families come stay with us at our cabin, and they all pitched tents on our deck. There were a total of 9 kids at our place under the age of 5. Young children get up early, like 6am, every day. That includes weekends. As usual, we all turned in prior to the music shutting down at the Creekbend (because we have to get up early). It was a real bummer to apologize to our guests, who came to Hope to enjoy some peace and quiet from Anchorage, and tell them that the music would stop soon (which it didn't, it went to almost midnight on the Saturday).

Every year my parents (who also have a cabin within earshot of the Creekbend Co.) host a midsummer celebration. For the first time in over 40 years, my parents, who have a cabin on 4<sup>th</sup> street, cancelled their midsummer celebration on their deck. They didn't see how it would work out to play their traditional Scandinavian music on their deck, while entertaining guests, if they had to compete with Creekbend Noise. My parents had their 40+ year midsummer tradition squashed by the Creekbend Co.

I'm all for live music, with alcohol, in the right setting. Unfortunately, The Acres Creekbend is the wrong setting. This is not a case of growing pains, this is a case of an establishment coming into Hope, and steamrolling local input. The only person that has gained anything from the Creekbend and its events is Steve, the owner of the Creekbend Co. He is literally profiting at the expense of everyone within earshot of his venue.

Steve has had many, many, chances to change his practices at his venue, but we have yet to see any positive changes. Noise pollution spewing across the entire Hope Valley late at night is no fun. Walking by empty beer cans and piles of toilet paper scattered on the side of 2<sup>nd</sup> street on Monday mornings is no fun. This has to stop now. Please consider DENYING the Creekbend Company's 2020 summer alcohol and/or permitting license.

Respectfully,

Tor Christopherson

907-223-7076

**From:** Elizabeth Belgard O'Malley  
**To:** [AMCO Admin \(CED sponsored\)](#); [Hamilton, Joe \(CED\)](#); [Alcohol, CED AMCO \(CED sponsored\)](#); [CED AMCO Enforcement \(CED sponsored\)](#); [AMCO Event Permits \(CED sponsored\)](#); [Dufresne, Jennifer R \(CED\)](#); [Klinkhart, Glen Edward \(CED\)](#)  
**Subject:** Opposition to pending renewal of Creekbend Cafe liquor license in Hope AK  
**Date:** Thursday, January 16, 2020 12:10:23 AM

---

I am writing in opposition to the pending renewal of Creekbend Cafe's liquor license in Hope AK. The noise level from the concerts, and the size of the crowds in attendance are disrupting the neighborhood surrounding the café.

Since the beginning of the summer of 2018, Creekbend Cafe has started having outdoor music concerts. These are not outdoor dinners with music, they are concerts on a large lawn, and concert attendees can purchase food from the outdoor grill. The prior owner of the property, which was named Tito's Discovery Cafe, occasionally had music on their deck on summer evenings. The volume of the music was reasonable, and the number of people limited by seating at the cafe. This did not disturb the neighbors.

Creekbend Cafe is located in the middle of a residential neighborhood. Their concerts are excessively loud. My property is about 1/2 mile away up Wagon Trail Road. Even with my windows and doors closed, I can still give you a playlist of the concert. The music isn't bad, it is just outrageously loud and disturbs our peace, and the peace of the surrounding neighbors. Hearing an acoustic guitar and mandolin from 1/2 mile away is just ridiculous.

When the concerts began, I personally spoke to Steve Thomas, Creekbend's owner, about the noise. After our long discussion he concluded with, "so, if I turn down the music, you'll be happy?". Obviously, he did hear me, but has not turned down the music. I have written Mr. Thomas many emails and left many phone messages. I have used the same phone number and email address that the public uses to make reservations at Mr Thomas's RV park, so I believe that the messages are received. Numerous Hope residents have contacted him as well. Mr Thomas reconfigured the stage and changed the direction of the speakers. This action, however, did not decrease the noise level in town (see any email you have received from the Christopherson family), and dramatically increased it for those with property now facing the speakers (my property, Rob Whitney or Holly Brooks).

The 40+ neighbors this affects directly have monitored noise levels during the concerts and continued to complain to Mr Thomas. We started monitoring so we had a fair, and objective way to evaluate the noise level. During concerts sound levels of 120dB measured with the NIOSH Sound Level Meter at Creekbend property line are routine. This is an iPhone app designed by OSHA for employers to monitor their workplace noise levels.

Sound levels are measured on a logarithmic scale. The decibel (abbreviated dB) is the unit used to measure the intensity of a sound. On the decibel scale, the smallest audible sound (near total silence) is 0 dB. A sound 10 times more powerful is 10 dB. A sound 100 times more powerful than near total silence is 20 dB. We neighbors also hired TTT Environmental Instruments of Anchorage to monitor sound levels at Creekbend Cafe's property border with results of 138-200dB. In comparison, Anchorage ordinance's daytime sound limit is 60 dB; 50 dB after 10:00 pm. (A jet taking off is 100dB at 305 meters overhead. A commercial wood chipper at 50 feet is 117dB) Despite our providing Mr Thomas with information regarding his sound levels, he has been unresponsive to our complaints.

The size of the concerts has grown. Hope is a small community with few amenities for visitors, and these crowds overwhelm the town. There is one public outhouse with two seats, and limited parking. For Creekbend Concerts, attendees park along both sides of the gravel roads in town right up next to the stop sign for the Hope Highway. At one concert I stopped counting at 125 cars illegally parked. We know they are concert attendees because the next morning they all leave. Concert attendees sleep in their cars, and use private property as their toilets, unwilling, or too drunk, to walk back to Creekbend during the night to use their porta potties. After the concerts are over, the visitors wander the neighborhoods, drinking and keeping residents up till 4am. The Seaview Cafe has employed security to prevent the after concert "party" from migrating to their RV park. Complaints to the Troopers have been made, but the closest troopers are in Seward or Soldotna. There are not enough restaurants to feed the concert goers nor sanitation facilities for them.

Hope held three town meeting last summer about the disturbance of the noise and crowds from Creekbend's concerts. Mr Thomas attended those meeting and has heard these complaints from many, many residents. At these Hope Town meetings, four people spoke in support of Creekbend concerts. I personally have spoken at two of these meetings. Along with my complaints, I stated that I did not wish Mr. Thomas' business to fail, I only wanted him to be a better neighbor. I also suggested if he wants to be a concert promoter, he should rent a more appropriate venue, such as the Ninilchik fair grounds where Salmon Fest is held. In response to complaints of the overwhelming crowds, Mr Thomas offered to pay for porta potties placed around town during concerts. Residents were not in favor of making our neighborhood one large bathroom and want smaller crowds limited by ticket sales. At the final town meeting of the summer a resolution was passed in support of requiring Creekbend to limit the music to Anchorage' s noise ordinance levels. Hope is a small community and we do not have an organized body that can enforce such a resolution. We appeal to the Alcohol Control Board for help.

I do not understand how the calls to the troopers complaining of the disturbance by Creekbend does not fall under AK law AS 11.61.110. ***AS 11.61.110. Disorderly Conduct; in a public place or in a private place of another without consent with intent to disturb the peace and privacy of another not physically on the same premises or with reckless disregard that the conduct is having that effect after being informed that it is having that effect, the person makes unreasonably loud noise. As used in this section, "noise" is "unreasonably loud" if, considering the nature and purpose of the defendant's conduct and the circumstances known to the defendant, including the nature of the location and the time of day or night, the conduct involves a gross deviation from the standard of conduct that a reasonable person would follow in the same situation. "Noise" does not include speech that is constitutionally protected.***

The limits we are requesting are not unreasonable. Mr Thomas could turn down the volume of the amplified music to Anchorage noise limits, and limit ticket sales to less than 75 people. I am requesting the board restrict the liquor license to these parameters or deny renewal. I do not make this request lightly. I would rather see Mr Thomas act as a good neighbor and continue his cafe business, but so far, he has been unwilling to change his behavior.

Elizabeth Belgard O'Malley, 63463 Wagon Trail Road, Hope AK

**From:** James O'Malley, MD  
**To:** [Alcohol, CED AMCO \(CED sponsored\)](#); [CED AMCO Enforcement \(CED sponsored\)](#); [AMCO Event Permits \(CED sponsored\)](#); [Klinkhart, Glen Edward \(CED\)](#); [Dufresne, Jennifer R \(CED\)](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Renewal of Creekbend Cafe liquor license Hope AK  
**Date:** Thursday, January 16, 2020 12:29:52 AM

---

AMCO Board,

I am writing to ask your help with alcohol related problems created by one of your licensees in Hope, Alaska, Creekbend Enterprises.

I have owned property in Hope for a number of years. My home is about a half mile to the south of where Creekbend is located. The summer of 2018, Creekbend Cafe began holding outdoor concerts on their lawn. The concerts were advertised in Anchorage newspapers, and large crowds have showed up for the events. What my wife and I first noticed was the volume of the amplified music. This music was loud enough a half mile from the venue that it made conversation on our deck difficult.

My wife discussed the music volume issue with the owner, Steve Thompson. He appeared to be sympathetic, but the loud music continued, from 7 or [8 pm until 11](#) or [11:30 pm](#) and sometimes later.

I feel that these alcohol-fueled loud events are beginning to destroy the quality of life in this little town. Creekbend also owns a package liquor store, too, which is supplying more alcohol to the visitors after the music ends.

Issues such as lack of accommodations, lack of parking, and lack of bathrooms are having visitors sleeping in their cars parked in the town streets, visitors camping (and building campfires) on private property, and using the adjacent woods as their latrine. Creekbend has never had more than three port-a-potties; the crowds can be as many as 300 guests. Adjacent property has become a communal toilet. Raucous groups of intoxicated people have been roaming the streets after the events, as well. The troopers are at more than an hour's drive in Seward and Soldotna.

Incidents such as a hit-and-run, petty vandalism (slashed tires after an event) and one-car accidents on the Hope Highway, all of which occurred the summer of 2019, are

foreign to this quiet little settlement, but are becoming more common now that this attractive nuisance has established itself in our midst.

The owner of Creekbend has never demonstrated any understanding of the havoc, nor willingness to change his behavior that his businesses are causing in Hope.

Restricting his liquor license to a decreased noise level consistent with the Anchorage noise ordinance 60 dB during the day 50dB after [10 pm](#) and restricted tickets sales for his concerts or denying renewal may finally prompt a willingness on Mr Thomas' part to be a better neighbor. The third of three Hope town meetings this summer voted to restrict noise from Creekbend to the Anchorage noise ordinance levels. The town meetings nor any other entity in Hope has enforcement powers. We appeal to you for help.

Sincerely

James E. O'Malley

[63463 Wagon Trail Road](#)  
[Hope AK](#)

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [AMCO Admin \(CED sponsored\)](#)  
**To:** [Alcohol, CED AMCO \(CED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Jan 21-22 board mtg.  
**Date:** Thursday, January 16, 2020 8:32:46 AM

---

**From:** Skogstad <akskogstad@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 15, 2020 10:06 PM  
**To:** Klinkhart, Glen Edward (CED) <glen.klinkhart@alaska.gov>  
**Cc:** Terry.craig@alaska.gov; AMCO Admin (CED sponsored) <amco.admin@alaska.gov>  
**Subject:** Jan 21-22 board mtg.

Mr. Klinkhart,

I am one of many concerned residents in Hope Alaska about the Creekbend business in Hope. There is a large group of residents sending in letters to the AMCO board with the upcoming January board meeting. We were given a date of Jan 17 for submitting letters, and now found today it was January 3rd.

- The issues with Creekbend have been ongoing for over two years now
- **Would it be possible to include the letters written and submitted after the 3rd of January to be included in the packet with the board meeting next week?**
- There is a huge grass roots effort seeking the help of AMCO for a business that has weekend music festivals with over 700 people which dwarfs the population of 180 residents in Hope with NO regard for the community

Thank you,  
Pamela Skogstad  
907-351-5840 cell

**From:** [Klinkhart, Glen Edward \(CED\)](#)  
**To:** [Sherry Stead](#)  
**Cc:** [Alcohol, CED AMCO \(CED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** RE: greetings  
**Date:** Thursday, January 16, 2020 3:40:09 PM

---

Ms. Stead,

Thank you for your well thought out email. If it is acceptable to you I will be providing a copy to each of the members of the Alcohol board so they too will read your thoughts.  
I love Homer and I never seem to get down there as much as I would like to.

Regards,

Glen

*Glen Klinkhart*

Interim Director

Alcohol & Marijuana Control Board

550 W 7th Ave #1600, Anchorage, AK 99501

Office (907) 269-0350

[glen.klinkhart@alaska.gov](mailto:glen.klinkhart@alaska.gov)

**From:** Sherry Stead [mailto:sdstead@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 16, 2020 3:31 PM  
**To:** Klinkhart, Glen Edward (CED) <[glen.klinkhart@alaska.gov](mailto:glen.klinkhart@alaska.gov)>  
**Subject:** greetings

Hi

This is from Sherry at Grace Ridge Brewing in Homer. We have been open 3.5 years and have learned a lot about the beer industry. With more to learn!

One thing I would like to see clarity on. . . in a good way that allows us to have a business. . . is the restrictions on breweries. I am good with the 36 oz, that is enforceable. I am good with the closing at 8pm. Enforceable. No TV's, no stools at counter, same, enforceable and clear. The entertainment, not so good with. I would like to see the regs so that they are clear and enforceable and fair. I

would like to see No Paid Entertainment. That is enforceable. Right now, if someone sings Happy Birthday, that could be classified as live entertainment. Unless it was me singing! Also, No Pay to Play gaming or Pay to play games. Those are enforceable and clear (I think since I really don't even know what is being restricted. Is it lottery tickets, Fantasy Football, Pull tabs?).. Right now, if someone starts to play cards with the person sitting next to them, that is playing a game. That's my 2 cents on the regs!! Stop in if you are in Homer and say Hi! Maybe come after work and you can have a beer!!!

Sherry Stead

--

Imagine a map of our community. Imagine the map is full of **red dots**, each representing a moment **when someone uses words or actions to harm another person.**

Now imagine a **green dot** appearing on the map. A green dot is simply **a moment when someone uses words or actions to make our communities safer.** You mention violence prevention in your staff meeting. A green dot appears. A teen stands up to a bully. Another green dot. Each of these single moments matter deeply to the people whose lives you touch. **No one has to do everything, but everyone has to do something.** What's your GREEN DOT?

**From:** Shelley Christopherson  
**To:** [Hamilton, Joe \(CED\)](#)  
**Subject:** Creekbend Company License Renewal  
**Date:** Thursday, January 16, 2020 6:40:09 PM

---

Dear Members of the Alcohol Marijuana Control Board,

I am writing to voice my concern regarding the Creekbend Company's, [64777 Second Street, Hope, AK 99605] beer & wine 2020/2021 license renewal. As some of you know, Creekbend Company has a Restaurant or Eating Place 'beer and wine' license; however they have been hosting large live music concert events (permitted by AMCO by a second party affiliate) in 'The Acres' portion of their property most weekends May 15-Sept 15. These multi-day, summer concerts put an increasing strain on the small town of Hope and the surrounding property owners (in the old downtown area). The issues include (but are not limited to) excessive noise, high traffic, consumption of alcohol outside of permitted area, sanitation issues on private property within walking distance of and surrounding the venue, and public safety issues such as drunk driving, public inebriation, wildfires, illegal camping, illegal parking, illegal drug use, and trespassing. Hope does not have a consistent active local law enforcement presence to handle the burden and the risk of said increase of activities that are directly linked with the Creekbend's events.

I hope you (AMCO & ABC Board[s]) consider putting 'conditions' on Creekbend Company's alcohol license (if renewed) and work on enforcing the establishment's events to be restricted to the designated license that they currently hold (re: Restaurant and Eating Place). Examples of additional 'conditions' would be (but not limited to) limiting their capabilities of hosting large live events, capping attendance of live concerts in The Acres area of property, limiting the amount of concert days permissible (per summer; aka only one day a week, and not every weekend), and/or putting a decibel level reading cap to their live events.

Thank you for this consideration and for your time.

Respectfully,

Shelley Christopherson,  
5th Street  
PO Box 125  
Hope, AK 99605  
907-947-4067  
[hopealaskayogi@gmail.com](mailto:hopealaskayogi@gmail.com)

**From:** Rune  
**To:** [AMCO Admin \(CED sponsored\)](#); [Hamilton, Joe \(CED\)](#); [Alcohol, CED AMCO \(CED sponsored\)](#); [CED AMCO Enforcement \(CED sponsored\)](#); [AMCO Event Permits \(CED sponsored\)](#); [Klinkhart, Glen Edward \(CED\)](#); [Dufresne, Jennifer R \(CED\)](#)  
**Subject:** License Renewal comments for "CreekBend Co" in Hope, AK  
**Date:** Thursday, January 16, 2020 9:21:21 PM

---

Dear Members of the Alcohol Marijuana Control Board,

I'm writing to comment on the activities of the CreekBend Company in Hope, AK. This past summer Creekbend has "stepped it up" a few notches by hosting large music concerts on their property behind the restaurant. Some of these events were attended by hundreds of people, overwhelming the small town of Hope. The town doesn't have enough parking, camping, or public restrooms, and no public water source... We just can't handle it every weekend. The scene is boarder line scary, considering the amount of alcohol and lack of any police or Trooper presence in the town.

Creekbend Co is allowed to make money and to be successful. But Hope is not set up to allow them to host such large weekend parties. I hope you consider the size of the town, and the potential for danger and anger from residents when you decide to renew or renew with restrictions Creekbend's alcohol license.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Rune Christopherson

**From:** Patrick Conway  
**To:** [AMCO Admin \(CED sponsored\)](#); [Hamilton, Joe \(CED\)](#); [Alcohol, CED AMCO \(CED sponsored\)](#); [CED AMCO Enforcement \(CED sponsored\)](#); [AMCO Event Permits \(CED sponsored\)](#); [Klinkhart, Glen Edward \(CED\)](#); [Dufresne, Jennifer R \(CED\)](#)  
**Subject:** Comments for Consideration - Creekbend Renewal  
**Date:** Friday, January 17, 2020 11:48:06 AM

---

Dear Members of the Alcohol Marijuana Control Board,

I am writing to submit comments regarding the Creekbend Company LLC consideration of 2020/2021 license renewal. With my wife and two teenage daughters, I am a property owner on 5<sup>th</sup> Street in Hope, approximately 500 feet from the physical location of the licensee's restaurant and concert venue.

Over the last several years the business that was formerly operated at Tito's Discovery Café, primarily operating as a seasonal diner serving breakfast and lunch, has transformed into more of a regional entertainment venue than a café. In addition to the peacefulness, proximity to mountains, Turnagain Arm, and Resurrection Creek, one of the reasons our family loves Hope is the music and arts scene that can be found there most of the summer. I am not opposed to the growth of the business or the community.

It appears I'm not alone in appreciating all the wonderful things a beautiful place like Hope has to offer. People flock to Hope from all over Southcentral to enjoy the outdoor music throughout the summer months. Unfortunately, even before the Creekbend Company modified Tito's the community struggled to provide adequate facilities to support the influx of summer visitors. Now, Hope's very limited public facilities and services have fallen well short of accommodating the additional visitors induced by the Creekbend Café's new business model.

Recently, we've experienced a dramatic increase in camping, littering, relieving themselves, and having campfires on and around our property. The main street through Hope (Second) has turned into an ad hoc campground most weekend nights between mid-May and mid-September, leaving the streets as the place for partying after the concerts end. Most nights the venue empties sometime past 11pm and noise associated with concertgoers continues well into the early hours of the following day.

When one venue is the driving force for increasing the stressors on scant public services and facilities, then it is the responsibility of those who drive those stressors to respond. The Creekbend Company and, by extension Alcohol Control Board through its approval process, should ensure that the venue does not contribute to a compromise in public health or welfare by

1. Providing adequate sanitary facilities for event attendees, both during events and after the crowd disperses,
2. Ensuring that event attendees disperse appropriately by assisting in enforcing that attendees do not camp in public rights-of-way, adjacent to Creekbend Company property,
3. A noise limit and curfew is established and enforced.

These are a few simple and reasonable measures that should not have an effect on Creekbend's ability to host events or generate revenue from those events, but should assure that the negative effects of those events are minimized and only felt by adjacent residents during the events.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Patrick Conway

**From:** Adventure Alaska Tours  
**To:** [AMCO Admin \(CED sponsored\)](#); [Hamilton, Joe \(CED\)](#); [Alcohol, CED AMCO \(CED sponsored\)](#); [CED AMCO Enforcement \(CED sponsored\)](#); [AMCO Event Permits \(CED sponsored\)](#); [Klinkhart, Glen Edward \(CED\)](#); [Dufresne, Jennifer R \(CED\)](#)  
**Subject:** Creekbend Company  
**Date:** Monday, January 20, 2020 3:44:21 AM

---

I am writing to voice concern for the Creekbend Company of Hope and hope this letter will be considered in the public comments section of the upcoming meeting in Juneau.

I've been in Hope for just about thirty years. While age and time don't automatically guarantee wisdom or legitimacy, they do provide perspective. Beyond its physical beauty, I moved to Hope because of its sense of community. A place where history and a shared love for location, and the people who have chosen that, are evident to all. For well more than a century it has weathered many challenges. From earthquakes, to fire, to the spectre of a huge dredge operation, it has always endured as a vibrant place to live because of its sense of community and the people who nurtured and protected that sense.

The individuals that I have known here and the ones I've only read about, leave me in awe for their selfless dedication and countless hours making this community work and to making it a better place. The community we cherish didn't come about by accident. It is because of the sacrifices of those who loved it that it is what it is today—an incredibly desirable place to live and play. But, by being such a true community, built by the love of people past and present who live here, it is not a plaything. It does not exist or thrive only because others might want to come here. We've always welcomed visitors, many of whom leave with an envy for the life and location that we get to experience everyday. That does not mean that their enthusiasm does not have consequences.

Tourism and the visitor industry have existed the world over for a long long time and provide many a livelihood. It is though, not inherently benign. In our travels we've encountered many a

locale, that though busy and the people making money, the very qualities that brought people there in the first place have been thoroughly and thoughtlessly squandered. And, I'd have to say sadly, that that is the norm. It's easy to think of attracting visitors as something incremental, that there's a natural cut-off point that everyone will recognize and adjust to when it's reached. But there isn't. It's only recognized when it's too late, when the qualities that make a place unique have been so compromised that they are hardly recognizable, and are permanently lost. There is no going back.

I might sound alarmist when I say that this is an existential crisis for our community as we know and love it, but it is, and it is called Creekbend Company. There has never before been this threat of visitors on a scale that overwhelms our infrastructure, and invades and diminishes our sense of community, all for the selfish greed and huge ego of one person. Hope is at a crossroads. When you sell your soul, you don't get it back.

I ask simply that you please reconsider their license for 2020 and the impact that Creekbend Company has and could continue to have on Hope.

Respectfully,  
Todd Bureau

PO Box 64  
Hop, AK 99605  
432-386-7832

**From:** Lee Ann Knapp  
**To:** [Alcohol, CED AMCO \(CED sponsored\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Robert.Vincent@SAMHSA.hhs.gov](mailto:Robert.Vincent@SAMHSA.hhs.gov); [Nelia.Nadal@samhsa.hhs.gov](mailto:Nelia.Nadal@samhsa.hhs.gov); [Elizabeth Dahl](#)  
**Subject:** Alaska State Compliance Check Protocols and Penalty Guidelines for Sales to Minors needed for 2020 STOP Act Report to Congress  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 21, 2020 8:46:59 AM  
**Attachments:** [Alaska Alcohol Laws 2018.pdf](#)  
[Alaska Alcohol Regulations 2018.pdf](#)  
[Alaska Compliance Check Policy.pdf](#)

---

I work for the CDM Group under contract with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and am gathering materials for the Report to Congress, specifically for the **2020 State Reports – Underage Drinking Prevention and Enforcement** required by the Sober Truth on Preventing Underage Drinking (STOP) Act.

To view **Alaska’s 2018 state report**, your state slide presentation, prevention videos, and success stories, click on your state on the map located at the following link:  
<https://www.stopalcoholabuse.gov/townhallmeetings/stateprofiles/fullmap.aspx>

**I am seeking two different types of protocols that are available to the public and that were in effect on January 1, 2019.**

1. **Compliance Check Protocols.** These are formal, written compliance check protocols or guidelines that are made available to the public.
2. **Penalty Guidelines for Sales to Minors.** These are formal, written guidelines for penalties imposed on retailers who sell alcohol to minors. They may be based on statute, regulations, and internal policies developed by the agency, that are made available to the public.

Your state’s information (if any) for these two protocols that was used in the preparation of the 2019 State Report (as yet unpublished) is attached. If there are no attachments, we were unable to find these protocols for your states.

- If there are protocols attached, can you please confirm that these (this) protocols are still in effect?
- If there are new versions, can you please direct me to where I can find them, or provide a copy via email ([leeann.knapp@cdmgroup.com](mailto:leeann.knapp@cdmgroup.com)) or fax to my attention at **301-656-4012**?

If you have any questions, please contact me by email or telephone (see below).

Thank you very much for your help. We would appreciate your response by Thursday, **February 6, 2020.**

**Please note:** *If this email has not reached the correct individual, please forward this email to that person and CC me at [leeann.knapp@cdmgroup.com](mailto:leeann.knapp@cdmgroup.com). THANK YOU*

*Lee Ann Knapp*

Editor

HHS/SAMHSA/STOP Act Report to Congress Project

The CDM Group, Inc.

Phone: 301-654-6740 / ext. 3036

Email: [leeann.knapp@cdmgroup.com](mailto:leeann.knapp@cdmgroup.com)

**From:** Lynn Metcalfe  
**To:** [Alcohol, CED AMCO \(CED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Security Plan Submission  
**Date:** Monday, February 3, 2020 8:36:10 AM

---

Hello,

I work for the the Grizzly Bar and we are working on our security plan. I wanted to check to see if there were any resources or templates available on the website? I did a quick search and read over the model policies plan, but didn't see anything specific to what the ABC Board is looking for regarding a security plan.

Any help would be much appreciated.

Thank you,

Lynn Metcalfe

**From:** LaFaive, Michael D.  
**To:** [Alcohol, CED AMCO \(CED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Hi, quick question on alcohol control from Michigan  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 11, 2020 12:26:17 PM

---

Are you a license state? That is, you just license businesses to engage in the alcohol trade rather than being wholesaler or retailer yourselves, right?

In Michigan the state acts as wholesalers for liquor but licenses all others just to ply their trade. Some states are more stringent and actually operate state stores.

I believe Alaska is just a license state but am hoping you can confirm that for me.

**From:** Robert Whitney  
**To:** [CED AMCO Enforcement \(CED sponsored\)](#); [AMCO Event Permits \(CED sponsored\)](#); [AMCO Admin \(CED sponsored\)](#); [Hamilton, Joe \(CED\)](#); [Alcohol, CED AMCO \(CED sponsored\)](#); [Klinkhart, Glen Edward \(CED\)](#); [cpierce@kpb.us](mailto:cpierce@kpb.us); [assemblyclerk@kpb.us](mailto:assemblyclerk@kpb.us); [kcarpenter@kpb.us](mailto:kcarpenter@kpb.us); [jbaisden@kpb.us](mailto:jbaisden@kpb.us); [Mbest@kpb.us](mailto:Mbest@kpb.us); [Blankenship, Johni \(GOV sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Concerns regarding Creekbend Cafe - Hope, Alaska  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 12, 2020 9:19:27 PM

---

Alcoholic Beverage Control Board and Kenai Peninsula Borough Staff,

I am voicing my concern once again regarding the Creekbend Café and its outside music/partying/nuisance venue in Hope, Alaska. Thank you for listening to the community's concerns at your last January meeting in Juneau. Thank you as well, in advance, for listening to our continued concerns at your March Anchorage meeting.

In review, the past two summers, Mr. Thomas' Creekbend Café has been a massive nuisance and safety concern in the small town of Hope. The issues have included ongoing excessively loud concerts, music playing well past 11pm curfew, drunk driving, defecation on surrounding private properties, plate night inebriated partiers, littering, drug use, illegal camp fires, and general disregard and disrespect for all surrounding neighbors.

I am concerned about *anymore* outside concert/event permits being issued to the Creekbend Cafe. At the January meeting, Mr. Thomas egregiously misrepresented himself to the AMCO board. He stated many things that simply were not truthful. He's saying 'the community supports him,' which we absolutely *do not*. A select few people support him, period. I am urging you to listen to myself and the many frustrated community members, rather than just Mr. Thomas' continued misleading banter. The truth will prevail.

Thank you again for listening to my concerns. I am also CC'ing this letter to KPB Borough Major Mr. Charlie Pierce, various Borough assembly members, and pertinent Borough staff.

I urge the board to continue denying all outside permits and/or renewals of this license and special events permits that allow activity beyond regular inside Café activities. This irresponsibility and nuisance of the Creekbend Café and its selfish owners will not be tolerated. The safety of our town is far too important.

Respectfully,

Robert Whitney  
Hope, Alaska

**From:** dan.cho@cohoimports.com  
**To:** [Alcohol, CED AMCO \(CED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** inquiry  
**Date:** Thursday, February 13, 2020 9:15:12 AM

---

Hello

My name is Dan from Co-Ho Imports in Everett WA. I am trying to apply for a wholesale distribution liquor license in AK and I'd like to make sure that if **9108 Mendenhall mall RD Juneau AK 99801** has any issue with my specific license type.

Thank you.

*Dan Cho*

**Chief Executive Officer | President**

GFA Corporation DBA Co-Ho Imports

T: 425.353.4100 F: 425.353.4139 C: 206.335.3253

E: [dan.cho@cohoimports.com](mailto:dan.cho@cohoimports.com) W: <http://www.cohoimports.com>

Corporation Office WASHINGTON |IDAHO Coeur d'Alene| IDAHO Meridian| OREGON

**From:** Cat Coward  
**To:** [Hamilton, Joe \(CED\)](#); [Alcohol, CED AMCO \(CED sponsored\)](#); [Klinkhart, Glen Edward \(CED\)](#); [AMCO Event Permits \(CED sponsored\)](#)  
**Cc:** [cpierce@kpb.us](mailto:cpierce@kpb.us); [assemblyclerk@kpb.us](mailto:assemblyclerk@kpb.us); [kcarpenter@kpb.us](mailto:kcarpenter@kpb.us); [jbaisden@kpb.us](mailto:jbaisden@kpb.us); [Mbest@kpb.us](mailto:Mbest@kpb.us); [Blankenship, Johni \(GOV sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** In opposition to permitting Creekbend Co music venue  
**Date:** Friday, February 14, 2020 10:25:34 PM

---

Dear AMCO board,

As a lead up to your March meeting, I am writing again to voice my concerns and opposition to renewing permitting for Steve Thomas and his Creekbend Co music venue in Hope. I am cc'ing this email to the KPB Mayor, and borough assembly members and staff.

Below is a copy of the email I sent you last month regarding this issue. My views have not changed. The Creekbend Co is a nuisance in Hope in terms of loud music, unsustainable crowds, and safety for our children. Mr Thomas has paid lip service to working with the community, but has been far from responsive or truthful. Please read below.

Thank you,  
Catherine Coward  
19760 Hope Hwy

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Members of the Alcohol Marijuana Control Board,

My husband, Tim Silbaugh, and I own property and live part time in Hope, Alaska, and are writing to express our concern regarding the business model and current operations associated with the Creekbend Company music and party venue. We are writing this email together, but will submit it separately to reflect our two community voices.

Tim and I have owned property and have lived in Hope preceding the entrance of Creekbend Co to the Hope community. We have serious concerns regarding the Creekbend Co's current business model and operations. Specifically, we are writing to request that the Creekbend's alcohol and permitting license be DENIED for the 2020 season.

The Creekbend Co, owned and operated by Mr. Steve Thomas, is an outdoor party venue located in the center of the small and traditionally quiet residential community of Hope. Since its inception in 2018, the Creekbend has drawn large, raucous, and boisterous party crowds to Hope. Mr. Thomas has not adequately responded to community concerns to promote public safety, to protect private property, or to respect late night noise limits. The result has been a wave of patrons camping and parking on private land, drunkenly wandering the streets, and driving intoxicated on the otherwise quiet main road. Very near our house, one intoxicated driver hit our neighbor's truck that was parked on the side of the road, which is frequented by families and children biking and walking.

In a series of Hope community meetings, Mr. Thomas has offered to make changes to minimize the negative impacts of his business on our community. However, in practice, his business operations have not changed and to some degree have worsened. Our primary concerns remain in spite of Mr. Thomas' claims that he is working with the community; the excessive volume, the lack of services for camping and sanitation, the uncontrolled intoxication of guests, and the lack of adherence to a reasonable closing time.

My husband and I both enjoy local music, and have appreciated a couple of the shows at Creekbend. We witnessed the following first hand: First, the volume was in excess of what was needed to enjoy the show, to the point that we were forced to wear earplugs due the excessive volume. Second, the shows continued to run much later than agreed upon. In one instance, Mr. Thomas stood at the mic on stage and said “We’re supposed to stop the music now, but do you all want to hear more?” After a loud cheer from many in the crowd, the music continued much later into the night. Third, we have witnessed a parade of honking cars and motorcycles speeding down Hope Main street leaving the venue just after midnight.

As Hope property owners and part time residents, we are disturbed by Mr. Thomas’ inability to work with neighbors who are desperately trying to provide a safe community for our children, get a good night’s sleep, and keep their property clean and safe.

In short, Creekbend has been notified many times of the Hope community’s legitimate concerns and viable options. To date, Mr. Thomas has shown a disinterest in modifying his business practice. We remain negatively impressed by the unsustainable crowds, the level of unbridled intoxication, the parade of drunken revelers, and the camping and parking on private property. Please do not relicense the Creekbend Co to continue in the Hope community.

Thank you,

Catherine Coward

19760 Hope Hwy

**From:** timothy silbaugh  
**To:** [Hamilton, Joe \(CED\)](#); [Alcohol, CED AMCO \(CED sponsored\)](#); [Klinkhart, Glen Edward \(CED\)](#); [AMCO Event Permits \(CED sponsored\)](#)  
**Cc:** [cpierce@kpb.us](mailto:cpierce@kpb.us); [assemblyclerk@kpb.us](mailto:assemblyclerk@kpb.us); [kcarpenter@kpb.us](mailto:kcarpenter@kpb.us); [jbaisden@kpb.us](mailto:jbaisden@kpb.us); [Mbest@kpb.us](mailto:Mbest@kpb.us); [Blankenship, Johni \(GOV sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please oppose permitting for Creekbend Co, Hope Alaska  
**Date:** Friday, February 14, 2020 10:25:37 PM

---

Dear AMCO board,

I am writing you once again in opposition to renewed permitting for Mr. Steve Thomas' Creekbend Co concert venue in Hope, Alaska. This is in anticipation of your upcoming March meeting. I have cc'ed this email to the KPB Mayor, and borough assembly members and staff.

I have included below a copy of the email I sent the AMCO board last month, as my concerns remain unchanged. The Creekbend Co concert venue, in its current form, is a nuisance in Hope due to unsustainable crowds, late night loud music, drunken partiers in the streets, and an unsafe environment for our kids. Mr Thomas has claimed to be being attentive to the concerns of the community, but in reality nothing has changed. Please see my previous email below.

Thank you,  
Tim Silbaugh  
19760 Hope Hwy  
Hope, AK  
\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Members of the Alcohol Marijuana Control Board,

My wife, Catherine Coward, and I own property and live part time in Hope, Alaska, and are writing to express our concern regarding the business model and current operations associated with the Creekbend Company music and party venue. We are writing this email together, but will submit it separately to reflect our two community voices.

Catherine and I have owned property and have lived in Hope preceding the entrance of Creekbend Co to the Hope community. We have serious concerns regarding the Creekbend Co's current business model and operations. Specifically, we are writing to request that the Creekbend's alcohol and permitting license be DENIED for the 2020 season.

The Creekbend Co, owned and operated by Mr. Steve Thomas, is an outdoor party venue located in the center of the small and traditionally quiet residential community of Hope. Since its inception in 2018, the Creekbend has drawn large, raucous, and boisterous party crowds to Hope. Mr. Thomas has not adequately responded to community concerns to promote public safety, to protect private property, or to respect late night noise limits. The result has been a wave of patrons camping and parking on private land, drunkenly wandering the streets, and driving intoxicated on the otherwise quiet main road. Very near our house, one intoxicated driver hit our neighbor's truck that was parked on the side of the road, which is frequented by families and children biking and walking.

In a series of Hope community meetings, Mr. Thomas has offered to make changes to minimize the negative impacts of his business on our community. However, in practice, his business operations have not changed and to some degree have worsened. Our primary

concerns remain in spite of Mr. Thomas' claims that he is working with the community; the excessive volume, the lack of services for camping and sanitation, the uncontrolled intoxication of guests, and the lack of adherence to a reasonable closing time.

My wife and I both enjoy local music, and have appreciated a couple of the shows at Creekbend. We witnessed the following first hand: First, the volume was in excess of what was needed to enjoy the show, to the point that we were forced to wear earplugs due the excessive volume. Second, the shows continued to run much later than agreed upon. In one instance, Mr. Thomas stood at the mic on stage and said "We're supposed to stop the music now, but do you all want to hear more?" After a loud cheer from many in the crowd, the music continued much later into the night. Third, we have witnessed a parade of honking cars and motorcycles speeding down Hope Main street leaving the venue just after midnight.

As Hope property owners and part time residents, we are disturbed by Mr. Thomas' inability to work with neighbors who are desperately trying to provide a safe community for our children, get a good night's sleep, and keep their property clean and safe.

In short, Creekbend has been notified many times of the Hope community's legitimate concerns and viable options. To date, Mr. Thomas has shown a disinterest in modifying his business practice. We remain negatively impressed by the unsustainable crowds, the level of unbridled intoxication, the parade of drunken revelers, and the camping and parking on private property. Please do not relicense the Creekbend Co to continue in the Hope community.

Thank you,

Tim Silbaugh  
19760 Hope Hwy

**From:** LaTesia Guinn  
**To:** [Alcohol, CED AMCO \(CED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Bethel regulations  
**Date:** Saturday, February 15, 2020 9:34:03 PM

---

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

So, my name is Jimmy Guinn and I live out in Bethel. I am inquiring as to the new regulation of limits regarding the unmarked, check on baggage or airline shipped alcohol into Bethel. What I read is that, in layman's terms, anyone traveling to Bethel may bring or ship personally, every month, one each 1/5 hard alcohol, 10 each malt beverages, and 2 each 1/5 bottles of wine without labeling. May I have a conformation on this ? Thank you

**From:** rdtimpane@yahoo.com  
**To:** [Alcohol, CED AMCO \(CED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Temporary licenses  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 25, 2020 12:40:48 PM

---

I am curious to the legality of Temporary IDs when purchasing alcohol. I understand the sheet lists restrictions, if any exist. Should someone attempting to purchase alcohol only have the temporary license available, as they have just renewed their license and the DMV voids every license regardless of expiration when renewing, do those qualify as valid identification?

**From:** Patti Foldager  
**To:** [AMCO Admin \(CED sponsored\)](#)  
**Cc:** [cpierce@kpb.us](#); [assemblyclerk@kpb.us](#); [kcarpenter@kpb.us](#); [jbaisden@kpb.us](#); [Mbest@kpb.us](#); [Blankenship, Johni \(GOV sponsored\)](#); [AMCO Event Permits \(CED sponsored\)](#); [Hamilton, Joe \(CED\)](#); [Alcohol, CED AMCO \(CED sponsored\)](#); [Glen.klinhart@alaska.gov](#)  
**Subject:** Creekbend Company in Hope Alaska  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 25, 2020 1:32:33 PM

---

Thank you for your time and consideration. Once again i am writing to you concerning the Creekbend Company as it has become apparent that the owner, (Steve Thomas), has no intention of working with the community of Hope. We as a community have become extremely frustrated with his out right lies and uncaring attitude towards out little town. We can not go a third summer of almost every weekend the onslaught of hundreds of people choking off our streets with cars, trucks, RV's, etc...

Once again here are some of my concerns:

Safety issues

1. Rowdy and combative partiers, this escalates after the concert as drinking and drug use continue until very early morning.
2. It's only a matter of time before guns or knives come into play and we do not have a police force.
3. We now lock our doors because we plain and simple don't feel safe.

Sanitation

1. Lack of bathroom facilities.
2. Human excrement on sides of streets and in local yards.
3. Large amount of trash.

Noise

1. It's always to loud!
2. Mr. Thomas has stated that he has turned it down, but decibel readings show that this is not true.
3. It can normally be heard all the way out at the airport, that affects a lot of households.

Creekbend Company/Steve Thomas

1. Mr. Thomas has rarely followed through on doing what he has said he would to work with the community. At a town meeting Mr. Thomas made a veiled threat to stay open until 5:00 a.m. if the community tried to shut him down.
2. It would seem that his only interest is making money. His concerts are bad for the community on many levels.
3. More than once the music went past the 11:00 p.m. cut off. One night it finally ended at 12:10 a.m.
4. I personally went into the venue one time only, and observed alcohol being served before the permitted time.

In summery I would like to point out that i am a full time resident, Mr. Thomas is not. Something has to be done, please help us.

Flip Foldager

**From:** Briana Williams  
**To:** [Alcohol, CED AMCO \(CED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Thibodeaus Valley Liquor  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 26, 2020 11:09:59 AM

---

Good Morning,

How does one go about reporting illegal selling to minors at a liquor store? This establishment was notified multiple times that they were selling to minors. Thibodeau's Valley Liquor in Juneau, Alaska.

My niece, Abigail Williams-Kelly was killed in a drunken driving accident in November 2019 and the cashier sold to them, did not check ID's. My friend who knows our family, saw him selling to them. They are continuously selling to minors at this liquor establishment. Is there something that can be done to STOP this?! We are a hurting family that wants justice and for this to stop!

I know that kids will always find ways to obtain alcohol, but this could help in so many ways!

Thank you for your time,

Briana S. Williams

**From:** Holly Brooks  
**To:** [cpierce@kpb.us](mailto:cpierce@kpb.us); [assemblyclerk@kpb.us](mailto:assemblyclerk@kpb.us); [jbaisden@kpb.us](mailto:jbaisden@kpb.us); [Mbest@kpb.us](mailto:Mbest@kpb.us); [AMCO Event Permits \(CED sponsored\)](#); [Hamilton, Joe \(CED\)](#); [Alcohol, CED AMCO \(CED sponsored\)](#); [Klinkhart, Glen Edward \(CED\)](#)  
**Subject:** Letter RE: Creekbend Cafe, Hope - Alaska  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 26, 2020 8:29:49 PM

---

Alcohol Marijuana Control Board & KPB officials,

My family has owned property and constructed our dream cabin in Hope over the past ten years. We use our place extensively during the summers. Recently, the past two summers, the Creekbend Café has been quite the gathering place for partiers, inebriates, and general debauchery, all whom have zero regard for the local residents and property owners.

Thank you for listening to the many concerns at your January AMCO meeting in Juneau. Much appreciated. I am continuing to share my concerns leading up to the next meeting scheduled in March, as well as voicing concerns with KPB officials.

Myself and many other property owners have filed numerous complaints with the AMCO board and the State Troopers, as documented on the Kenai Borough website. The owners of the Creekbend Café have shown disregard for the Hope residents and the right to privacy of surrounding property owners. The owners have ignored a multitude of complaints ranging from deafening 120+ decibel noise levels, rampant illegal double parking downtown, sanitation issues, defecation on private property, trespassing, illegal drug use and drunk driving.

The small town of Hope will not tolerate the general bad behavior and cannot handle the influx of 1000+ revelers each summer weekend. In fact, I will not even let my kids wander around or bike downtown any more, as it is too unsafe now. Not to mention my children cannot sleep at night due to the noise.

My husband and I built in Hope because of its small close-knit community and it being a safe place for children and pedestrians. We have a right to neighboring privacy (a state statute) and solitude.

This past summer, a motorist high on methamphetamines crashed their car on the Hope Hwy. This vehicle is still on the side of the road. This is a constant reminder of the summer partying and revelry at the Creekbend Café. It is only a matter of time before there is a fatal accident due to alcohol on the highway, as a result of excessive alcohol consumption at the café.

I am urging the board to *continue denying* all outside permits at the Creekbend Café, beyond basic restaurant activities associated with the café. Enough is enough.

Thank you for listening.

Holly Brooks  
Hope Property Owner

--

Holly Brooks  
<http://hollybrooks.com>  
phone: +1 907-350-8349  
Twitter: @brooksha1  
Facebook: Holly Brooks LLC

**From:** heather zimmerman  
**To:** [Alcohol, CED AMCO \(CED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Obtaining a work permit for a 16 y.o in our establishment  
**Date:** Thursday, February 27, 2020 2:01:45 PM

---

Hello,

Mountain High Pizza Pie license #4274 with a restaurant designation would like to higher a 16 year old for dishwashing.

Are we able to obtain a work permit from AMCO for this?  
I understand I need a work permit from the Dept of Labor too.

Thank you for your help,

Heather Zimmerman  
Bookkeeper/HR  
Mountain High Pizza Pie  
907-354-1447

**From:** Elizabeth Belgard O'Malley  
**To:** [cpierce@kpb.us](mailto:cpierce@kpb.us); [assemblyclerk@kpb.us](mailto:assemblyclerk@kpb.us); [kcarpenter@kpb.us](mailto:kcarpenter@kpb.us); [jbaisden@kpb.us](mailto:jbaisden@kpb.us); [Mbest@kpb.us](mailto:Mbest@kpb.us); [jblankenship@kpb.us](mailto:jblankenship@kpb.us); [AMCO Event Permits \(CED sponsored\)](#); [Hamilton, Joe \(CED\)](#); [Alcohol, CED AMCO \(CED sponsored\)](#); [Klinkhart, Glen Edward \(CED\)](#)  
**Subject:** Creekbend Cafe liquor license renewal, March 2020 hearing  
**Date:** Monday, March 2, 2020 4:09:31 PM

---

I am writing again to express my continued concern to the AMCO March meeting regarding Creekbend Cafe's liquor license permit for outside music events in Hope AK. The noise level from the concerts, and the size of the crowds in attendance significantly disrupt the neighborhood surrounding the café.

Creekbend Cafe is located in the middle of a residential neighborhood. Their concerts are excessively loud. My property is about 1/2 mile away on Wagon Trail Road. Even with my windows and doors closed, I can still give you a playlist of the concert. The music isn't bad, it is just outrageously loud and disturbs our peace, and the peace of the surrounding neighbors. Hearing amplification of an acoustic guitar and mandolin from 1/2 mile away is just ridiculous.

Since the beginning of the summer of 2018, Creekbend Cafe has started having outdoor music concerts. These are not outdoor dinners with music, they are concerts on a large lawn, and concert attendees can purchase food from the outdoor grill. The prior owner of the property, which was named Tito's Discovery Cafe, occasionally had music on their deck on summer evenings. The volume of the music was reasonable, and the number of people limited by seating on café deck. This did not disturb the neighbors.

When the concerts began, I personally spoke to Steve Thomas, Creekbend's owner, about the noise. After our long discussion he concluded with, "so, if I turn down the music, you'll be happy?". Obviously, he did hear me, but has not turned down the music. I have written Mr. Thomas many emails and left many phone messages. I have used the same phone number and email address that the public uses to make reservations at Mr Thomas's RV park, so I believe that the messages are received. Numerous Hope residents have contacted him as well. Mr Thomas reconfigured the stage and changed the direction of the speakers. This action, however, did not decrease the noise level in town (see any email you have received from the Christopherson families), and dramatically increased it for those with property now facing the speakers.

The 40+ neighbors this affects directly have monitored noise levels during the concerts and continued to complain to Mr Thomas. We started monitoring so we had a fair, and objective way to evaluate the noise level. During concerts sound levels of 120dB measured with the NIOSH Sound Level Meter at Creekbend property line are routine. This is an iPhone app designed by OSHA for employers to monitor their workplace noise levels.

Sound levels are measured on a logarithmic scale. The decibel (abbreviated dB) is the unit used to measure the intensity of a sound. On the decibel scale, the smallest audible sound (near total silence) is 0 dB. A sound 10 times more powerful is 10 dB. A sound 100 times more powerful than near total silence is 20 dB. We neighbors also hired TTT Environmental Instruments of Anchorage to monitor sound levels at Creekbend Cafe's property border with results of 138-200dB. In comparison, Anchorage ordinance's daytime sound limit is 60 dB; 50 dB after 10:00 pm. (A jet taking off is 100dB at 305 meters overhead. A commercial wood chipper at 50 feet is 117dB) Despite our providing Mr Thomas with information regarding his

sound levels, he has been unresponsive to our complaints.

The size of the concerts have grown. Hope is a small community with few amenities for visitors, and these crowds overwhelm the town. There is one public outhouse with two seats, and limited parking. For Creekbend Concerts, attendees park along both sides of the gravel roads in town right up next to the stop sign for the Hope Highway. At one concert I stopped counting at 125 cars illegally parked. We know they are concert attendees because the next morning they all leave. Concert attendees sleep in their cars, and use private property as their toilets, unwilling, or too drunk, to walk back to Creekbend during the night to use their porta potties. After the concerts are over, the visitors wander the neighborhoods, drinking and keeping residents up till 4am. The Seaview Cafe has employed security to prevent the after concert "party" from migrating to their RV park. Complaints to the Troopers have been made, but the closest troopers are in Seward or Soldotna. There are not enough restaurants to feed the concert goers nor sanitation facilities for them.

Hope held three town meeting last summer about the disturbance of the noise and crowds from Creekbend's concerts. Mr Thomas attended those meeting and has heard these complaints from many, many residents. At these Hope Town meetings, four people spoke in support of Creekbend concerts, none of whom live near Creekbend. I personally have spoken at two of these meetings. Along with my complaints, I stated that I did not wish Mr. Thomas' business to fail, I only wanted him to be a better neighbor. I also suggested if he wants to be a concert promoter, he should rent a more appropriate venue, such as the Ninilchik fair grounds where Salmon Fest is held. In response to complaints of the overwhelming crowds, Mr Thomas offered to pay for porta potties placed around town during concerts. Residents were not in favor of making our neighborhood one large bathroom and want smaller crowds limited by ticket sales. At the final town meeting of the summer a resolution was passed in support of requiring Creekbend to limit the music to Anchorage's noise ordinance levels. Hope is a small community and we do not have an organized body that can enforce such a resolution. We appeal to the Alcohol Control Board for help.

I do not understand how the calls to the troopers and AMCO, complaining of the disturbance by Creekbend, does not fall under AK law AS 11.61.110. **AS 11.61.110. Disorderly Conduct;** in a public place or in a private place of another without consent with intent to disturb the peace and privacy of another not physically on the same premises or with reckless disregard that the conduct is having that effect after being informed that it is having that effect, the person makes unreasonably loud noise. As used in this section, "noise" is "unreasonably loud" if, considering the nature and purpose of the defendant's conduct and the circumstances known to the defendant, including the nature of the location and the time of day or night, the conduct involves a gross deviation from the standard of conduct that a reasonable person would follow in the same situation. "Noise" does not include speech that is constitutionally protected.

The limits we are requesting are not unreasonable. Mr Thomas could turn down the volume of the amplified music to Anchorage noise limits, and limit ticket sales to less than 75 people. Mr Thomas has been unwilling to work with his neighbors or change his behavior for the last two years. I urge the board to continue denying any and all outside permits and renewals of this license and special events permits that allow activity beyond the boundary of the Creekbend Café building. I do not make this request lightly. I would rather see Mr Thomas act as a good neighbor and continue his cafe business, but he has proven he is unwilling to do this.

I am also sending copies of this letter to KPB Mayor Charlie Pierce, borough members and

staff.

Elizabeth Belgard O'Malley

63463 Wagon Trail Road, Hope AK

**From:** James O'Malley MD  
**To:** [AMCO Event Permits \(CED sponsored\)](#); [Hamilton, Joe \(CED\)](#); [Alcohol, CED AMCO \(CED sponsored\)](#); [Klinkhart, Glen Edward \(CED\)](#)  
**Cc:** [assemblyclerk@kpb.us](mailto:assemblyclerk@kpb.us); [kcarpenter@kpb.us](mailto:kcarpenter@kpb.us); [jbaisden@kpb.us](mailto:jbaisden@kpb.us); [Mbest@kpb.us](mailto:Mbest@kpb.us); [jblankenship@kpb.us](mailto:jblankenship@kpb.us)  
**Subject:** Creekbend Cafe, Hope Alaska, renewal of liquor license, March AMCO meeting  
**Date:** Monday, March 2, 2020 5:13:37 PM

---

I am writing to ask your help with alcohol related problems created by of your licensees in Hope, Alaska, namely, Creekbend Enterprises. At the March AMCO meeting I request you deny any future outdoor permits at Creekbend.

I have owned property in Hope for a number of years. My home is about a half mile to the south of where Creekbend is located. Since the beginning of summer 2018 outdoor music events have been held at Creekbend Cafe on a stage fronted by a grass lawn, liquor served, and the music amplified. This was repeated in 2019 with more concerts and larger crowds. The concerts were advertised in Anchorage newspapers, and large crowds showed up for the events. What my wife and I first noticed was the volume of the amplified music. This music was loud enough at a half mile from the venue, that we could not hold a conversation on our deck when the music came on.

My wife discussed the music volume issue with the owner, Steve Thomas on two or three occasions. He appeared initially to be sympathetic to our concerns, but the loud music has continued, from 7 or 8 pm until 11 or 11:30 pm and often later.

I feel that these alcohol-fueled loud events are beginning to destroy the quality of life in this little town. Creekbend also owns a package liquor store, too, which is supplying more alcohol to the visitors after the music ends.

Issues such as lack of accommodations, lack of parking, and lack of facilities, are having visitors sleeping in their cars parked in the town streets, visitors camping (and building campfires) on private property and using the adjacent woods as their latrine. Creekbend has never rented more than three port-a-potties; the crowds can be as many as 300 guests. Adjacent property has become a communal toilet. Raucous groups of intoxicated people have been roaming the streets after the events, as well. Local residents on the streets directly adjacent to Creekbend complained at a town meeting that they are kept awake until 4am by the loud after-concert partying.

Incidents such as a hit-and-run, petty vandalism (slashed tires after an event) and several one-car accidents on the Hope Highway, all of which occurred the summer of 2019, are foreign to this quiet little settlement, but are becoming more common now that this attractive nuisance has established itself in our midst.

The owner of Creekbend has never demonstrated any understanding of the havoc that his businesses are causing the citizens of Hope. I am requesting that Steve Thomas be denied the use of any pended outside permits for musical events this coming summer, and that any alcohol permitting be made conditional to his demonstrating by actions, that he can be more of a responsible citizen with the privileges that he has been granted.

Sincerely,

James E. O'Malley, MD

64364 Wagon Trail Rd, Hope AK

**From:** Barbra Bureau  
**To:** [Klinkhart, Glen Edward \(CED\)](#); [Alcohol, CED AMCO \(CED sponsored\)](#); [AMCO Admin \(CED sponsored\)](#); [CED AMCO Enforcement \(CED sponsored\)](#); [AMCO Event Permits \(CED sponsored\)](#); [assemblyclerk@kpb.us](#); [cperce@kpb.us](#); [jbaisden@kpb.us](#); [jblankenship@kpb.us](#); [Hamilton, Joe \(CED\)](#); [kcarpenter@kpb.us](#); [mbest@kpb.us](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Creekbend Company permit  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 3, 2020 7:03:33 AM

---

I am again writing to voice my concern for the negative impact the Creekbend Co in Hope has had on our community the last two summers. I have lived in Hope since 1995. My husband and I had a tourism business as well as nightly cabin rentals there for twenty years. We raised our son there. It is a most awesome community but not without its growing pains. We've seen businesses and people come and go, and occasionally there are those who want to change the character of Hope, in the name of "improvement", but for the most part they've either realized Hope is not suited to their idea of change and they leave, or they've made adjustments to their plan, working with locals and taking into consideration the general sentiment of the town.

Steve Thomas, the owner of Creekbend Company has done neither. He arrived in Hope with a business dream and a "to hell with the rest of you" attitude to go along with it. He brought in mostly Outside employees, who were also unfamiliar with small town dynamics. His concerts and events have dominated our town nearly every weekend for two summers. He's been approached by many local residents, by phone, email, text, imploring him to listen to suggestions and concerns. Most of these requests have been ignored, which is odd given that Steve has stated at local meetings that he's not aware of problems because no one has approached him. I myself wrote him three times and left a couple phone messages, suggesting we meet for a friendly, non-confrontational chat and have heard nothing back.

The impact this one business has had on our town is astounding. We do have other bars, restaurants and music venues, none of

which have caused the problems that Creekbend has. The sudden increase of traffic on our two lane winding road on Fridays is frightening. The illegal camping, parking, trespassing, noise level and general disregard for property owners is completely unacceptable. In all my years here, I've never seen so many "No Trespassing" and "Private Property" signs sprout up on private residences. People are putting up electric fencing, sawhorses and logs across driveways, in an attempt to discourage the masses of weekend people from camping and parking on their land.

We have no law enforcement here in Hope. If troopers are called, it may take them hours to get here from Seward or Soldotna, not to mention that it potentially takes one of the few law enforcement officers we have on the peninsula off the dangerous highway to come all the way to Hope for a disturbance. But the danger is real, many of these people that come to Creekbend's music events drive back to Girdwood or Anchorage, clearly inebriated. And for those that choose to stay the night, there is very little infrastructure in Hope to accommodate them (this is by choice and financial necessity as many locals do not wish for more parking lots or campgrounds, nor is the money or land available for such). So they park and camp along our narrow dirt roads, on both sides, blocking traffic flow, or on private property, mostly without bathroom facilities, and often with their loose dogs. Many Hope residents with small children have sadly had to adapt their cherished "let the kids run free in downtown Hope" attitude due to the influx of strangers on weekends. When we were still operating our nightly cabin rentals, we had regulars who for years would come on weekends with their kids to enjoy the quiet of Hope, but stopped due to the increase in traffic and noise.

My plea to you all, is to please consider revoking Creekbend's permit for summer 2020, or at the very least, adjust the conditions

of their permit which might force them to be more respectful neighbors in our community.

Thank you for your time,  
Barbra Bureau

--

Barbra Bureau  
PO Box 64  
Hope, AK 99605  
(907) 782-3730 home  
(907) 782-3725 fax  
(907) 244-1902 cell  
[bjbureau@gmail.com](mailto:bjbureau@gmail.com)

--

Barbra Bureau  
PO Box 64  
Hope, AK 99605  
(907) 782-3730 home  
(907) 782-3725 fax  
(907) 244-1902 cell  
[bjbureau@gmail.com](mailto:bjbureau@gmail.com)

**From:** Tor Christopherson  
**Subject:** Creekbend Co. - Hope, Alaska  
**Date:** Thursday, March 5, 2020 1:20:04 PM

---

Hi, my name is Tor Christopherson and I am again writing you to share concerns I have about the Creekbend Co. in Hope, Alaska. I previously emailed AMCO on January 15th with concerns.

I live full time in Hope late May through early August every summer, and have been spending summers in Hope since 1981. My cabin is located roughly 800 feet as the crow flies from the Creekbend venue. The past two summers in Hope have been very different than all of the summers prior to the arrival of Creekbend. Post Creekbend Hope consists of extremely busy and noisy weekends. I have young children who go to bed between 7:30 and 8pm every night, and get up at 6am every morning. When the Creekbend hosts music shows, my kids struggle to fall asleep due to the noise coming from the live music events (which fills the entire Hope valley).

One weekend from last summer stands out to me. It was in June, and we had 3 families come stay with us at our cabin, and they all pitched tents on our deck. There were a total of 9 kids at our place under the age of 5. Young children get up early (6am) every day. That includes weekends. As usual, we all turned in prior to the music shutting down at the Creekbend (because we have to get up early). It was a real bummer to apologize to our guests, who came to Hope to enjoy some peace and quiet from Anchorage, and tell them that the music would stop soon (which it didn't, it went to almost midnight on the Saturday).

On top of the detrimental noise level of the Creekbend's music events, every time the Creekbend Company hosts a music show, 2<sup>nd</sup> street lines up with cars, people pee and poop in the woods. I legitimately don't feel safe letting my kids ride their bikes through town as it is full of inebriated people walking and driving through town.

I'm all for live music, with alcohol, in the right setting. Unfortunately, The Acres Creekbend is the wrong setting. This is not a case of growing pains, this is a case of an establishment coming into Hope, and steamrolling local input. The only person that has gained anything from the Creekbend and its events is Steve, the owner of the Creekbend Co. He is literally profiting at the expense of everyone within earshot of his venue.

Steve has had many, many, chances to change his practices at his venue, but we have yet to see any positive changes. Noise pollution spewing across the entire Hope Valley late at night is no fun. Walking by empty beer cans and piles of toilet paper scattered on the side of 2<sup>nd</sup> street on Monday mornings is no fun. This has to stop now. Please consider DENYING the Creekbend Company's 2020 summer alcohol and/or permitting license.

Respectfully,

Tor Christopherson

907-223-7076

**From:** Marcia Combes  
**To:** [assemblyclerk@kpb.us](mailto:assemblyclerk@kpb.us); [cpierce@kpb.us](mailto:cpierce@kpb.us); [kcarpenter@kpb.us](mailto:kcarpenter@kpb.us); [jbaisden@kpb.us](mailto:jbaisden@kpb.us); [jblankenship@kpb.us](mailto:jblankenship@kpb.us); [amcopermits@alaska.gov](mailto:amcopermits@alaska.gov); [joehamilton@alaska.gov](mailto:joehamilton@alaska.gov); [Alcohol, CED AMCO \(CED sponsored\)](#); [glenklinkhart@alaska.gov](mailto:glenklinkhart@alaska.gov)  
**Cc:** [robertwhitney99@gmail.com](mailto:robertwhitney99@gmail.com); [Pamela Chesla Wife](#)  
**Subject:** Concerns with Hope as a large concert venue  
**Date:** Thursday, March 5, 2020 8:51:28 PM

---

Dear AMCO board:

Thank you for continuing to listen to and respond to community concerns regarding Hope as a large concert venue. Together with your help we would like to restore a balance of peace and tranquility, access to world class recreational opportunities, as well as safe and appropriately sized concerts in this amazing and very small Alaska community.

I am writing as a 20-year Hope resident who has observed changes within our community that have brought unacceptable impacts and risks to our residents in the last few years. Hope has a long history of supporting Alaska musicians and providing great music in an idyllic setting. Unfortunately things have escalated out of control with respect to noise, public safety, sanitation, and alcohol consumption. This situation has put a strain on community resources, where the existing infrastructure cannot accommodate the massive influx of people. The lack of a consistent law enforcement presence further compounds the potential for trouble and community disruption.

Concerts have become more frequent, louder and longer, and attendance has soared. There are inadequate restroom, trash, parking and camping facilities available resulting in impacts to adjacent property owners. People can't sleep. Tensions among residents and visitors are on the rise.

Please do all that you can within your authorities to enforce the laws and permit limits designed to prevent ongoing and destructive disturbances as well as ensure public safety. Perhaps a limit on frequency of concerts, noise levels, alcohol sales, number of people in attendance, along with the requirement for a security presence will help to restore a balance that everyone can live with. We ask for your focus on these issues and to continue the dialogue so that resources can be appropriated to manage what has become unmanageable at the community level.

Thank you again for your time and consideration of these concerns.

Marcia Combes  
Middle Creek Circle  
Hope, AK

Sent from Marcia

**From:** heather ireland  
**To:** [cpierce@kpb.us](mailto:cpierce@kpb.us); [assemblyclerk@kpb.us](mailto:assemblyclerk@kpb.us); [kcarpenter@kpb.us](mailto:kcarpenter@kpb.us); [jbaisden@kpb.us](mailto:jbaisden@kpb.us); [Mbest@kpb.us](mailto:Mbest@kpb.us); [jblankenship@kpb.us](mailto:jblankenship@kpb.us); [AMCO Event Permits \(CED sponsored\)](#); [Hamilton, Joe \(CED\)](#); [Alcohol, CED AMCO \(CED sponsored\)](#); [Klinkhart, Glen Edward \(CED\)](#)  
**Subject:** Concerns about the Creekbend  
**Date:** Friday, March 6, 2020 1:08:42 PM  
**Attachments:** [AMCO letter 2020.pdf](#)

---

Please see the attached letter about the Creekbend 2020 permit and the negative impacts of this business on the community of Hope.

Regards,

Heather Ireland  
Hope Historic District property owner

3 January 2020

To the Members of the Alcohol and Marijuana Control Board,

Thank you for your service to Alaska as a member of this Board. I am writing to you with concerns about alcohol sales at the Creekbend Company in Hope, Alaska.

Although I reside in Anchorage, we have owned property in downtown Hope for six years. Our family loves the recreation opportunities, socializing with Hope residents, and fun music scene. Unfortunately, this has changed drastically in the past two years.

The SeaView has reasonable decibel levels, adequate security, qualified servers, and *always* ends their music promptly at the cut off time. In contrast, Creekbend events:

- Are excessively loud, echoing up throughout the valley,
- Are unsecure because the site could be easily compromised by minors,
- Have inadequate bathroom facilities,
- Are attended by very drunk individuals, possibly from servers who continue to serve patrons, which has led to drunk driving, and
- Often exceed the cut off times for noise.

Although the owner claims to be willing to work with the community, he has shown a blatant disregard for concerns voiced by community members. What is exceptionally concerning is that at a community meeting this summer, the Creekbend owner did not even truly understand his permits. The attending state trooper had to explain to him that although the alcohol permit was valid later, it did not give him authorization to have music playing past 11 PM. It made me question the lack of understanding about other rules with which Creekbend is required to comply.

Creekbend has the potential to be a fun music scene hosting community events. However, as Board members with AMCO, you are required to ensure permits are issued to responsible proprietors. Creekbend has not demonstrated that they can be responsible. Therefore, you must put some clear limits on the Creekbend permit for 2020, if it is issued at all. The community of Hope trusts that you will curtail this problem before it gets worse and results in something tragic.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Heather Ireland". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large loop at the end of the last name.

Heather Ireland  
(907) 952-6464

**From:** Sandra Christopherson  
**To:** [AMCO Event Permits \(CED sponsored\)](#); [Alcohol, CED AMCO \(CED sponsored\)](#); [Klinkhart, Glen Edward \(CED\)](#); [cpierce@kpb.us](mailto:cpierce@kpb.us); [assemblyclerk@kpb.us](mailto:assemblyclerk@kpb.us)  
**Subject:** Hope Creekbend Liquor License  
**Date:** Friday, March 6, 2020 6:03:20 PM

---

I urge you to deny a liquor license to the Hope Creekbend “Acres,” a venue in Hope, Alaska, for popular music bands, that includes an outdoor listening, eating and drinking area. For two summers, the venue has held concerts with increasing disruption. Last summer, the traffic, noise, litter, and congestion all night led to our decision to write to you. We feel that our enjoyment of this peaceful community has been destroyed by this enterprise. The noise is intolerable, the safety compromised by over a hundred cars parked on the street, people sleeping in their cars, toileting beside their cars and partying all night. Our land is very near the Acre property and we have had people camping in our woods uninvited. This cannot go on. We have lived in Hope every summer for 40 some years and are dismayed that this is what is happening. Please help us preserve this peaceful community.

Sincerely,

Sandra Christopherson

**From:** Frank Gwartney  
**To:** [AMCO Admin \(CED sponsored\)](#); [Hamilton, Joe \(CED\)](#); [Klinkhart, Glen Edward \(CED\)](#); [Alcohol, CED AMCO \(CED sponsored\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Charlie Pierce](#); [Ken Carpenter](#)  
**Subject:** Creekbend Cafe (Hope, Ak) permitting  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 11, 2020 5:19:21 PM

---

Dear Mr. Klinkhart

I assume my letter of January 13, 2020 is in this meeting's docket so I will not repeat those grievances.

Hope has always been a family oriented community where kids ride their bikes around town or in the woods unchaperoned, free to go to the playground or catch a fish for dinner at Resurrection Creek. And enjoy the quiet evenings. It's been distressing to witness Creekbend changing that culture which for many years has attracted folks down to live or have 2nd homes, into an uncontrolled open air, alcohol fueled wild west for weekend sprees.

I listened to the previous hearing and do not understand how excessive noise, off site crowd control and inadequate sanitary accommodations can not play a role in permitting decisions.

This year I am appealing the Kenai Peninsula Borough property assessment to reflect the reduced land value and enjoyment of my residence and property based on Creekbend event activities.

Sincerely,  
Frank Gwartney