To the Grant Advisory Council,

My name is Andrew Scrivo. I am the Seward Area Sources of Strength Coordinator, a parent, high school coach, and year round resident of Seward. I am writing this letter in support of the grant application filed for the Seward Community Bike Park Project.

Sources of Strength is an upstream model suicide prevention program. In our program, we illuminate to ourselves, schools, and community the areas in our lives where we can all derive personal strength to make it through life’s ups and downs. One of these strengths, and an especially important one for our youth here in Seward, is *healthy activities*.

Having spent the large majority of my childhood on a bicycle, I can’t stress to you enough the importance of our kids having a safe, legal place to ride and explore the freedoms, limits and realities that come with having their own mode of transportation. My bicycle taught me some of life’s most important lessons, but looking back, the biggest thing was that it kept me *outside* and *moving*. If we can keep our youth in Seward doing those two things, I honestly believe we will see them become, as a whole, healthier and happier.

As a parent and high school coach, I think keeping kids active and outside will combat many issues like: obesity; isolation; drug use; and alcohol abuse. The Bike Park Project will give our youth here in Seward a great place to go and participate in healthy, physical activities that will help them stay mentally and physically fit and active. I think it will become a safe meeting place for kids of mixed ages and abilities, and that will foster a healthy environment of cooperation and support. We need more places like this in Seward.

In the future, I think you will see that this will lead to even more opportunities for our kids in the way of clubs, programs, and even classes. My good friend and Olympian, Mike Friedman, after a 15 year professional cycling career, has started a non profit focused on “Moving Minds and Bodies Through Bicycle Education” because these types of programs are so powerful, impactful, and important for kids. I think this is a national trend that Seward should jump on.

I hope that you can see what a benefit the SCBPP will be to this community. I hope that you understand that our youth here in Seward need as many safe, legal, and healthy places to go as we can provide them. They need these places to recreate and learn, to stay active and healthy. I personally can’t wait to support the Seward Community Bike Park Project myself as a volunteer in any way that I can. I am passionate about the youth of Seward and anything we can do to help them succeed. This project is another amazing opportunity for us to do just that.

Most sincerely,

Andrew Scrivo

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