

**A new GMCB Public Comment has been received.**

**Submit Time:** 5/26/2023

**Name:** Steve Wright

**Affiliation:** President/GM Jay Peak Resort, North Country Hospital Trustee

**Town/City:** Jay and Newport

**Topic:** Hospital Budget

**Comment:**

TO: Green Mountain Care Board Directors

FROM: Steve Wright, President, and General Manager Jay Peak Resort

RE: FY24 Budget Guidance DATE: 26 May 2023

I run one of the area's largest employers here in the Northeast Kingdom of Vermont here at Jay Peak, with nearly 1500 full, part-time, and seasonal staff members—all of whom, at one point or another, rely on the services, lines of business and programming that our local hospital, North Country Hospital, provides. As a member of its Board of Trustees, I feel a responsibility, as well, to make sure that the business stays healthy, and viable and manages itself in a way that allows for long-term viability for both my employees and the broader communities that it serves. From the vantage point of a business operator, I understand the fiscal pressures on both the cost sides of our business here—including both operating expenses, labor, and benefits—and the revenue side (rising inflation is crunching wallets and limiting spending). But in creating budget guidance that ends up disallowing for margin and resulting in another significant operating loss across the upcoming fiscal year. The health of our local community depends on the survival of our rural access hospitals, and they need to stay solvent and organize business plans that give them a path to solvency, in order to fully serve these communities.

My request, our request, as both a board member and a business owner, is for the Green Mountain Care Board to reconsider its position and to set a more realistic goal and budget proposal for the upcoming fiscal period. We need to put the healthcare needs of our patients and communities first and the net result of having to cut programming, reduce staff and limit access, in order to hit budget proposals ungrounded to the environments they need to support, accomplishes none of this.

Respectfully Steve Wright Vice-Chair North Country Hospital President and General Manager Jay Peak Resort

**Post Comment:** Yes