

October 1, 2010

Ekwok Village Council
PO BOX 70
Ekwok, Alaska 99580

Ekwok Natives Limited
PO BOX 70
Ekwok, AK 99580

Local Boundary Commission
Division of Community and Regional Affairs
Department of Community, Commerce, and Economic Development
550 West 7th Ave., Suite 1770, Anchorage, AK 99501-3510
Phone: 269-4559 Fax: 269-4539

RECEIVED
OCT 01 2010
Local Boundary Commission

Re: City of Dillingham Annexation

On behalf of the Ekwok Village Council and Ekwok Natives Limited we are writing to object to the annexation proposal and procedure selected by the City of Dillingham for the Woodriver and Nushagak Commercial salmon fishing districts. As residents of Bristol Bay who commercial fish in the Nushagak District we are infrequent users of the harbor facilities of Dillingham during the fishing season and already pay an annual harbor usage fee to the City of Dillingham. The current petition put forth by the City of Dillingham could put tax our residents which would only benefit the City of Dillingham instead of our community or region as a whole.

The village of Ekwok relies on the precedent established by the L.B.C. in 1987 that Nushagak Bay is an area of regional importance, not an area subject to the influence of a single community in the Bristol Bay region. Ekwok has real social and economic connections to Nushagak Bay including income and food for its residents.

Ekwok Village Council and Ekwok Natives Limited opposes the annexation of the Nushagak Commercial Fishing District and Wood River Sockeye Special Harvest area to the City of Dillingham because the waters of Nushagak Bay and Wood River are not part of the community of Dillingham, but rather they belong to all of the cities and villages of our region. We also object to the annexation procedure, if the petition is permitted to go beyond the L.B.C., approval of the petition should be subject to the legislative review process provided in the Alaska Constitution rather than by an election in the City of Dillingham. Under the local opinion method, none of the residents of Ekwok who are directly affected by the annexation petitioned for by Dillingham would have an opportunity to vote on the question of annexation.

Sincerely,



Luki Akelkok
President Ekwok Village Council
President Ekwok Natives Limited