

2-24-11 Chambers

From: Izetta Chambers [izetta.chambers@gmail.com]  
Sent: Thursday, February 24, 2011 3:54 PM  
To: Commission, Boundary (CED sponsored)  
Cc: Jody Seitz; alice@bbedc.org  
Subject: Dillingham annexation petition

Dear Committee Members;

I offer this letter in support of the City of Dillingham's annexation proposal to annex the Nushagak Bay and some nearby lands.

As a prior resident of the Bristol Bay Borough, where I grew up, I was very fortunate to have reaped the benefits that a tax base brings. I would like the same opportunities for the children and residents of Dillingham that I was blessed with - ample municipal revenue from a significant tax base from our primary resource - salmon.

As you are aware, much of the lands within the current city boundaries are tax exempt Native Allotments, which provide no funding for all of the services that Dillingham provides - both to its year-round residents, and also to many of the surrounding communities. Annexation and the proposed fish tax would allow the city to provide those services that so many fishermen require.

While I empathize with the plight of many of the residents of the surrounding villages, if Dillingham's petition were approved, I am confident that they will consider their neighboring villages in much of their decision making analyses and do whatever is in their power to provide benefits to all fishermen in the form of improved infrastructure that will elevate not only the convenience to the fishermen, but also increase the ex-vessel price paid for the salmon. I feel that the increases in the fish prices will more than mitigate any adverse impacts to the surrounding villages.

Respectfully,

Izetta Chambers, J.D.  
Dillingham resident