

P.O. Box 478
Dillingham, AK 99576

February 24, 2011

Local Boundary Commission
550 West Seventh Ave., Suite 1770
Anchorage, AK 99501-3510

Dear Sirs:

This letter is in reference to the Preliminary Report to the Local Boundary Commission regarding the annexation proposal by the City of Dillingham. I am a seven year resident of Dillingham and for the past 22 years I have lived in hub communities off the road system in Alaska. I am a property owner within the city limits of Dillingham. I do not participate in commercial fishing in Bristol Bay. I am in agreement with the Preliminary Report and support the annexation proposal by the City of Dillingham.

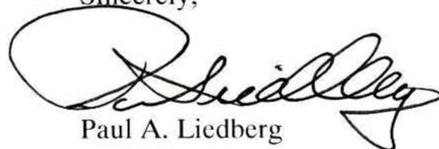
Having lived in two other rural hub communities in the state (Galena and Bethel) I've had some exposure to the regional role that these communities play. Dillingham, in my view, is exposed to even more demands than the other hubs mentioned because of the services and infrastructure in place to support the fishing industry in Nushagak Bay. Dillingham certainly benefits from the fishing industry. But without question there is also a high cost to the city in support of this fishery and those costs should logically be shared with the beneficiaries of the industry.

As a homeowner and taxpayer in Dillingham, I have no problem helping to support many of the services provided by the city even though I may not personally use those services to any degree. I don't have children in school but I recognize the financial contribution each of us has to make in the school system for the future of our next generation. I am not a senior citizen but the facility that we have for seniors is a tremendous asset. I make only limited use of the city library and museum but I know that they provide important benefits for residents and visitors.

The city functions mentioned above have virtually no other means of revenue locally except for our real, personal and sales taxes. But for the services provided by the city to support the fishing industry and associated infrastructure – much of which is used by non-Dillingham residents - there is an opportunity to recoup some of those costs. The annexation proposal with the associated fish tax provides that opportunity and that is why I support the initiative. It seems logical and necessary for rural communities in Alaska to make wise and strategic decisions on revenue. I believe this proposal is strategic, and will more equitably share the responsibility for funding local governance among the recipients of services.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.

Sincerely,



Paul A. Liedberg