

February 26, 2016

Local Boundary Commission
550 West Seventh Avenue, Suite 1640
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-3510

RE: Dillingham Annexation Petition

Dear Local Boundary Commission,

We oppose the City of Dillingham's petition to annex the setnet fishery in Ekuk Beach. In the petition the City of Dillingham lists services they provide as, "education, public works, ports and harbors, public safety, planning, tax collection, public utilities (water, sewer, landfill), roads and planning and zoning." These services have not been and will not in the future be provided to Ekuk or Ekuk fishermen by the City. Our fishery is not based in Dillingham. We rarely use the harbor, and when we do it is with purchase of a full season harbor sticker in return for one or two uses. We do not receive public safety services from the City. Those of us who fly through Dillingham pay taxes on our air fare in return for one or two hours waiting in the terminal. The City does not provide planning services to Ekuk and it is inconceivable that they will ever be able to support public utilities in Ekuk. We have been fishing in Ekuk from birth (John) and for 32 years (Christine) and have never encountered any City of Dillingham services, support or participation in Ekuk.

We understand the financial struggles the City faces. And we contribute to them. We own a home in Dillingham and pay property taxes. We provide business services in Dillingham and assess and remit sales taxes. And when we purchase groceries, fuel and other materials in Dillingham we pay sales tax. These are fair assessments in return for the services we receive in Dillingham.

However, this petition proposes to include our fishery simply to assess fish tax in return for virtually no city services. In 2013 we paid \$2,055 in fish tax to the City of Dillingham and received no services and had no impact on the City. This is unfair and we strongly oppose the annexation petition which would continue it.

Sincerely,

John & Christine O'Connor
2800 N Park Drive
Wasilla, AK 99654