

February 26, 2016

Local Boundary Commission
550 W Seventh Avenue, Suite 1640
Anchorage, AK 99501-3510

RE: Dillingham Annexation Petition

Dear Local Boundary Commission:

We firmly oppose the proposed Dillingham Annexation Petition as submitted to the Local Boundary Commission. Specifically, our objection is in regards to the annexation of the commercial fishing village of Ekuk. We, in no way, can determine how the “reasons for the proposed boundary changes”, as outlined by the City of Dillingham, correlate to the fishers in Ekuk.

Ekuk is a unique fishery and in almost all ways is inclusive to its own statistical area, where fish are caught and sold to a local processor. Infrastructure needs are provided by the individual fishers, Ekuk Fisheries, or Ekuk Village. Specifically, regarding the Dillingham Annexation Petition, Ekuk has no access to the landfill, has seen no efforts in regard to our public safety, and as a whole, has negligible impact on the harbor. Alternatively, Ekuk has an incinerator and a recycling program, has not seen public safety efforts (how is a “mutual response” with Alaska State Troopers actually defined), and any possible users of the harbor pay the annual Dillingham Harbor Fee.

Although Dillingham serves as a hub for Nushagak fishers, Ekuk fishers are quite limited in their impact to Dillingham, other than in the form of taxable goods. Due to proximity and established businesses, Ekuk fishers have grown accustomed to the availability of many goods, including but not limited to food, parts, equipment and gear. The city not only directly benefits from these taxable items, but also indirectly, through further support of local commerce. Due to the nature of these already fairly reciprocated interactions, we believe that establishing a fish sales tax in Ekuk will provide an undue hardship.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Nicholas & Amber Dowie (S04T60323N, S04T66957W)