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The latest Alaska Gasline Development Corporation public presentation given in Nikiski underscored the fact that Nikiski has no voice in either the planning or development of the LNG project. During our Incorporation study meetings, we are constantly reminded that Nikiski has no legal standing and therefore no "clout" or position from which it can negotiate. This fact is absolutely true with regards to Nikiski's place in the Assembly. Bottom line: Nikiski has no standing, no voice, and no negotiating power and must wait for "the handlers" to toss us a bone, and in most cases Nikiski is left with nothing at all. Bottom line: The people of Nikiski have no equal representation. This fact is making the folks on The North Road stir with indignation seeing that the borough government is deciding everything that we must do while thwarting everything we seek to achieve for ourselves. Wayne Ogle is one voice and in spite of his valiant efforts to receive what is fair and equal for those he represents, he is treated like some bothersome complainer by the assembly. To fault the people of Nikiski, one blogster recently asked, "When was the last time you publicly supported our elected representative Wayne Ogle at the Borough Assembly meetings?" (as if packing a courthouse would influence a judge's decision). The fact is that the game is rigged by the Binkley Street bureaucrats (and I suspect by higher levels in Alaska's government) who are consumed with their hunger for control and their greed for money at the cost of the personal liberty of the people on the North Road who are being denied in their effort to determine their own way forward. We've seen all this before. There was another time in our history when power was controlled by a distant entity. It was in the days preceding the American Revolution.

So let's visit those days. I'm sure you at one time read Patrick Henry's stirring "Give Me Liberty" speech. In it, this great hero of the American Revolution recounts the futile efforts to persuade the Crown to give more autonomy and control to the colonies. He writes: *"We have petitioned; we have remonstrated; we have supplicated; we have prostrated ourselves before the throne, and have implored its interposition to arrest the tyrannical hands of the ministry and Parliament. Our petitions have been slighted; our remonstrances have produced additional violence and insult; our supplications have been disregarded; and we have been spurned, with contempt, from the foot of the throne!"*

Now you may think that quoting Patrick Henry is a bit dramatic in an effort to stir the sentiments of the Local Boundary Commissioners, but when you overlay Patrick Henry's pleadings atop the listed abuses penned in the Declaration of Independence, the causes for their resentment and final rebellion become clear. The grievances listed in the Declaration of Independence find their root in the refusal of the King to grant to the colonists the right to manage their own civic, economic, and governmental affairs. I will compare the present effort of Nikiski to Incorporate to the Colonist's struggle in one, and only one way, and that is by saying that the

people of the North Road stand in the shadow of others who hungered for self-rule, autonomy, and the freedom to determine their own future. It's good if one can hear such echoes from the past.

The voices of opposition to Nikiski's effort to incorporate are many. The Local Boundary Commission's Staff Report listed deficiencies in Nikiski's petition. I consider them minor flaws that can be easily remedied by the LBC. But placed in the context of the larger question of whether Nikiski should be able to represent and govern itself, they fail to carry enough weight to crush Incorporation altogether!

But it comes down to this: If we on the North Road make mistakes, it will be OUR mistakes. If we head in the wrong direction, it will be OUR decision to go there. If we move forward and succeed so that we may become a city that has equality and legal standing with other cities on the Peninsula, it will be OUR effort. But, if we fail, it will not be caused by our lack of effort, but rather because others cannot remember history!

Final thought: Tyonek has chosen to opt out. Fine, make the exception and then move on to approve Incorporation. As far as land size is concerned, consider that the Lake Clark Wilderness Preserve and Park will not be affected by The City of Nikiski's management decisions. Removing the park boundaries and Tyonek would make the proposed city footprint actually smaller than other cities in Alaska. In reality, the land/water size shouldn't be a deciding factor to disapprove Incorporation, but for the sake of management, Nikiski would still provide services to the West Side of Cook Inlet if the LBC keeps all but Tyonek within the boundary.

Submitted by Norm Olson, Member of the Incorporation Study Group



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