August 19, 2016

Lynn Chrystal, Chairman  
Local Boundary Commission  
c/o Brent R. Williams, Local Government Specialist  
Alaska Department of Community, Commerce and Economic Development  
550 West 7th Ave., Suite 1640  
Anchorage, AK 99501

Re: LBC Hearings in Consolidated Annexation Petitions from the City of Dillingham and the City of Manokotak

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I represent the City of Manokotak in its pending annexation petition which has been consolidated with the petition brought by the City of Dillingham, and request, on behalf of the City of Manokotak, that one of the LBC hearings on the consolidated petitions be held in Manokotak.

I yesterday received the Notice of Extension of Period to Submit Comments on the Preliminary Report concerning the consolidated annexation petitions. I thereafter discussed with LBC staff Brent Williams the probable impact of this extension on the scheduling of hearings, which were previously estimated to occur during the latter part of September, 2016. Mr. Williams said that it was premature to determine a new hearing schedule with certainty, but he thought that the hearing or hearings would be pushed back to the latter part of November or early December.

In response to a question from me, Mr. Williams indicated that there had as yet been no determination that there would be hearings in both Dillingham and Manokotak. On behalf of Manokotak, I now request that a separate hearing on the consolidated annexation petitions be held by the LBC in Manokotak. Suitable facilities exist in Manokotak for such a hearing.

Manokotak’s annexation petitions should be considered on an equal footing with the annexation petition brought by Dillingham. It would be unfair to Manokotak’s residents if they were required to travel to Dillingham for an LBC hearing on the consolidated petitions. Travel from Manokotak to and from Dillingham presents a
substantial burden to Manokotak residents, both in terms of expensive air travel and lodging in Dillingham, as well as the uncertainties of travel, particularly during the winter months, e.g. November and December.

I do not know whether the decision on hearing locations will be made by the Chair or by the Commission as a whole, but have been advised that the Commission is likely to have at least one public meeting concerning Dillingham and Manokotak in the very near future, at which Manokotak’s request could be addressed. I expect to be present at such meeting, and can there address any questions you or other commissioners may have regarding this request.

Sincerely,

James T. Brennan
Attorney for City of Manokotak