

Dr. Todd Radenbaugh and Michele Masley
P.O. Box 1071
Dillingham, AK, 99576

21-September-2015

Local Boundary Commission Staff
550 West Seventh Avenue, suite 1640
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-3510
Phone: 907 269 4559, Fax: 907 269 4539
Email: LBC@alaska.gov

RE: Comments In Support of Dillingham Annexation Petition

Dear Local Boundary Commission Staff:

This letter is in reference to the Local Boundary Commission annexation proposal by the City of Dillingham (COD). As a property owner and resident of COD, we would like to declare our support for the annexation proposal. We are in full support to annex the territory proposed by the COD which consists of approximately 400 square miles. I feel that the revenue created by this annexation of modest size but of very high economic and environmental value would be an important investment in Nushagak communities and would significantly help the regional economy.

Currently, the COD plays significant roles providing services and infrastructure that supports the Nushagak Estuary fishing fleet. Even though the COD currently gains some benefits from the fishing industry, there is also a proportionally higher cost to the COD in support when compared to adjacent villages, and those costs should be shared across the region.

As a property owner and taxpayer, we have no issues with COD developing commercial fishing infrastructure, even though we or our family members may not directly use those services. This is because supporting such services are in the best interest of the community and region.

The COD needs more diverse revenue streams in order to maintain the high level of services provided to residents and seasonal visitors. The annexation with the associated fish tax provides a sustainable and much needed revenue stream to support the local economy, where the remote location results in higher maintenance costs than other areas of Alaska and in an era of rising operating costs. We believe the proposal is not only strategic, but necessary to more equitably share the responsibility for local governance.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment

Sincerely,



Todd A Radenbaugh, Ph.D. and Michele Masley, MS
Dillingham, Alaska