

9/24/2015

Mayor Melvin Andrew
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RE: City of Dillingham's (CoD) Annexation Petition

Dear Local Boundary Commission Staff,

I have high hopes that the Commissioners will hold all our comments to their breadth and depth in this important issue that strikes the very being and existence a community. The following are my comments on behalf of the City Council of Manokotak.

First, the proposed annexation area covers the whole Nushagak Bay, which includes the Igushik Section of the commercial fishing district of Nushagak Bay. A majority of Manokotak residents, set net commercial fishermen and women, occupy the Igushik beach. Our ancestral line to Igushik Beach as a whole canvas's both our subsistence and commercial endeavors. Many still utilize the commercial and subsistence way of life during the summer months. Increasing cost of living has hampered our commercial and subsistence way of living, but has not diminished our strong desire to improvise, adapt, and change to today's economic stress. We will continue to utilize our traditional fish camp our ancestors have used today and well into the future.

Second, we will certainly absorb the additional cost CoD's request to impose a 2.5% fish tax if they are allowed to annex Igushik Section. Many Igushik setnetters already have been burdened with the high cost of doing business. This goes for the commercial drift net fleet from Manokotak.

Thirdly, the commercial drift fleet from Manokotak utilize CoD fishing services to a minimum, choosing more to get their own services from Manokotak.

And lastly, Manokotak residents have opposed and voiced their opposition to CoD's first annexation efforts and are against in more on their second attempt.

The City Council of Manokotak has been against the CoD's Annexation Petition and has committed to opposing it by whatever means possible.

However, we are open to a consolidated petition and will accept CoD's agreement with our request to make our Petition's one and united.

In high regards,



Mayor Melvin Andrew
City of Manokotak