September 27,2015

Diane Wetter
P.O.Box 336
Dillingham, Alaska 99576
907-842-1432

LBC
Brent Williams
550 W. 7th Ave, Suite 1640
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-3510

Dear LBC,

My name is Diane Wetter. I am a resident of Dillingham and a Nushagak Bay commercial setnetter.

I am writing in my objection to The City of Dillingham's and The City of Manokotak's petitions to annex parts of the Nushagak/Igushik fishing district.

In regards to the City of Dillingham's annexation petition. The beaches/waters in the fishing district, though not inhabited in the terms of legal description, are part of traditional Native villages. The City has said they are only interested in collecting the fish tax. The annexation, by legal description, puts the beaches and waters of Ekuk, Nushagak, Clarks Point, Igushik in the city limits of Dillingham. Subject to future rules by the City of Dillingham. In my opinion they are taking away a very important identity of what these beaches/waters mean to villages involved.

Fact: Dillingham is a fishing community. Dillingham is a hub for the Bristol Bay region.
Myth: The surrounding communities and the fishing industry are a burden to the City of Dillingham.
Having the organizations, BBNA/ BBHAC /BBHA/BBEDC/Choggiung which were created by and for the villages, based in Dillingham is an overwhelming financial contribution to the City of Dillingham. The surrounding villages also contribute through the sales tax they pay. The fishing dollars that cycle through Dillingham is the back bone of this town. The City's portrayal that being a hub/fishing port costs the City above and beyond what the City benefits would be proven false with an in-depth audit.The tax dollars are needed more so in the villages for the survival of the villages.

In regards to the City of Manokotak's petition. The Igushik beach is used by subsistence and commercial fishermen. The majority of these fishers are from the village of Manokotak. It makes more sense that the Village of Manokotak has right to annex the Igushik river. I disagree with their right to tax and not share with the watershed villages of the Nushagak.

To approve the City of Dillingham's petition is wrong. To take away what belongs to traditional villages (annexation of waters and beaches), charge them for it (raw fish tax), not give them a voice or share in the tax is wrong. Our country was founded on correcting these wrongs.

THE ONLY FAIR SOLUTION IS TO CREATE A BOROUGH. ONE WHERE ALL VILLAGES RETAIN THEIR IDENTITY AND THE TAX COLLECTED IS SHARED BY ALL WATERSHED RESIDENTS.

Thank you for your attention on a matter that is very important to me.

Sincerely
Diane Wetter
Diane Wetter
cc:Eileen M. Collin

Picture is of the village of Ekuk. Shows just how much the beach is a part of this village.