

February 15, 2011

Local Boundary Commission staff
550 West Seventh Avenue, Suite 1770
Anchorage, AK 99501-3510

Dear Sirs:

The purpose of this letter is to comment on the Preliminary Report to the Local Boundary Commission Regarding the proposal to annex by local option, approximately 396 square miles of water and 3 square miles of land to the City of Dillingham.

Koliganek is located on the left bank of the Nushagak River and lies 65 miles northeast of Dillingham. I and members of my family actively fish set net permits sites which are located on Nushagak Bay in Nushagak statistical area 325-31. We fish as a family with my wife and two children. All of our commercial fishing occurs in Nushagak Bay. Each summer we load up our skiffs in the village and travel down river to our site. We also have two crew members employed in our set net operation. We have been set netting at Nushagak since limited entry started. My wife was born in Koliganek and her family came to Nushagak to fish even before limited entry. It was their traditional fishing site for many generations before my wife and I took it over.

The City of Dillingham wants to make Nushagak Bay a part of their city. As a villager from Koliganek, I consider Nushagak Bay to be connected to my village just as much as to Dillingham.

After the annexation, I am told that Dillingham would then have a 2.5% fish tax on gross income of all fishermen who sell fish caught from Nushagak Bay. When I calculate the cost to me, it would be substantial. Just when we get a good price for our fish, it seems that Dillingham comes up with a plan to take away that little bit of room that the price has given us. I pay sales tax in Dillingham and launch fees for the skiffs that we use in our set net operation. I am not getting a free ride by any means. I live in this area all year long and pay the local price for everything. The cost of fuel is particularly hard to take.

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The amount I would pay in fish tax would probably cover a large part of my fuel bill for the season.

I and my family do not support the petition of City of Dillingham to annex the Nushagak Bay Commercial Salmon District or the Wood River Sockeye Salmon Special Harvest Area and the plan to have a fish tax. A copy of this letter has been sent to the City of Dillingham.

Glenn (Skin) Wysocki
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CC: Alice Ruby
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