

Michelle Webb

From: Stephanie Scott
Sent: Tuesday, April 22, 2014 11:00 AM
To: DG_Assembly; Michelle Webb
Cc: David Sosa; Darsie Culbeck; hbrouillette@chilkoot-nsn.gov
Subject: CIA Pellet Support Letter
Attachments: CIA Pellet Support Letter.doc; ATT00001.txt

Dear Members of the Assembly,

CIA Tribal Council Vice-President Harriet Brouillette and Tribal Administrator Dave Berry met with myself, Dave Sosa, and Darcie Culbeck yesterday to discuss the probable positive impact Borough support for the creation of a pellet mill could have on the Congressional Delegation. We have drafted the attached letter and ask that you consider adding it to tonight's agenda for consideration and approval. We are also asking to send Darcie Culbeck with the CIA delegation to underscore the cooperation between the two entities. (miles will be used to pay for the airfare; per diem and lodging will be paid for from the economic development fund). The meetings with the Federal Delegation are set for April 30 and May 1.

The CIA has feasibility studies and plant design in hand. Senator Murkowski invited the Tribe to return to her once those documents were produced. That is the step now being taken.

We believe that we are on the cusp of establishing a wood pellet industry here in Haines and we urge your support.

Sincerely,

Stephanie



April 22, 2014

Honorable Senator Murkowski,
Honorable Senator Begich,
Honorable Congressman Young,

The Haines Borough Assembly unanimously supports the efforts of the Chilkoot Indian Village to construct a wood pellet mill in Haines. The development of a wood pellet mill is critically important to the long term sustainability of our community and will allow Haines to take an active part in our energy future. Not only will a pellet mill provide jobs and keep heating dollars in the community, but it will also be using local renewable resources (The Haines State Forest and the Tongass National Forest) as a value added timber product to produce heat for our municipal, commercial and residential buildings.

Currently the Haines Borough spends almost \$400,000 per year on heating fuel. These dollars leave the community almost immediately. A local pellet mill would allow these dollars to be spent in town and cycle an estimated five times before leaving. This will be a huge impact to our economy.

The Haines Borough has been working towards this form of energy independence for more than a decade and we have made great strides. Just this week the Alaska State Legislature funded the Alaska Energy Authority's Renewable Energy Fund Round 7 projects. This included \$1,237,403 for the Haines Borough Municipal Building Biomass Project which will convert ten of our buildings to biomass. This grant plus a Haines Borough match will provide \$1.4 M for biomass conversion starting this summer.

This grant comes on the heels of our self funded pellet boiler installation in the Haines Senior Center in November 2012. This test project has successfully run over 5000 hours while keeping our seniors warm, saving money and removing the environmental liability associated with underground storage tanks.

In addition to job creation and economic development, the construction of a local pellet mill by the Chilkoot Indian Association will lower the cost of living in Haines. The Chilkoot Indian Association has stated that they will provide local pellets "at cost plus depreciation". The impacts of less expensive thermal BTU's will be felt by every resident and commercial enterprise in the Haines Borough.

This project serves as another example of the mutually beneficial cooperative relationships between the Haines Borough and one of our local tribal governments. We hope our efforts serve as a model for other communities.

Thank you for your support of this very important and visionary project.