

Michelle Webb

From: Anne Boyce [annepaul@aptalaska.net]
Sent: Wednesday, March 05, 2014 12:48 PM
To: Dave Berry; Joanne Waterman; George Campbell; Diana Lapham; dscnabel@haines.ak.us; Jerry Lapp
Cc: Michelle Webb
Subject: Heliski Areas Expansion Request
Attachments: Feb 2014 Heliski Areas Expansion.docx

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Michelle: Would you see that these comments are included in the packet for the March 11 Assembly meeting?
Thanks. Anne Boyce

Dear Haines Borough Assembly Members & Administration:

I find the heliski companies'* latest gambit to operate outside of and disrupt existing Haines covenants – and the Interim Manager's agreeing thereto --very disturbing on multiple counts:

1. It circumvents the regulatory process – with its considerable input and deliberation -- which set forth this years terms of operation.
2. It mounts an “Event” concept clearly thrown together in haste, as evidenced by the proposals submitted to the Borough.
3. It asks the Borough once again to give irregular support to a private business which gambles on Mother Nature to provide ideal/safe operating conditions. Other Haines businesses and individuals are not bailed out when they incur similarly adverse circumstances. And most Haines businesses deal with all sorts of regulations and competition: Commercial fishing, liquor stores, grocery stores, restaurants, daycare centers, flying services, SEARHC, electricians, plumbers, general contractors, the swimming pool, etc., etc.

Our commercial fisherman, for example, must comply with myriad regulations and weather. They're limited as to where, when, and what they can fish. Bad weather makes fishing more dangerous. If a gillnetter chooses the wrong mesh size for a given week – unfortunate. If a boat's engine breaks down, and requires weeks for parts & repair, the Borough is not making up that lost income. *If a gillnetter fishes outside prescribed areas & times, the official response is swift and unarguable.*

4. It uses a rationale at cross-purposes with the poor terrain conditions of 2014: It's illogical to talk about intensifying one's marketing effort when it is impossible to deliver the product. The normal vagaries of weather in the Haines Borough guarantee that a business dependent on good extreme skiing conditions is assuming [or should assume] considerable profit/loss (and other) risk with respect to honoring successfully their sales pitch.

5. It asks the Borough Assembly publicly and formally to sanction industry operations throughout areas the heliski companies themselves have described as having particularly dangerous conditions this year. What then are the legal implications for the Administration & Assembly should there ensue accident(s) causing death and/or injury?

I do not believe opening up more areas at this juncture would be a wise and proper decision.

Sincerely,

Anne Boyce

*Alaska Heliskiing and SEABA