

## Michelle Webb

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**From:** Stephanie Scott  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 08, 2014 9:57 AM  
**To:** Michelle Webb  
**Subject:** Fwd: Proposed Heliport on Chilkat Lake Road

For your comment collection

Stephanie Scott  
Mayor, Haines Borough  
907-766-2231 ext.30

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Terry Basford <[klehini24@yahoo.com](mailto:klehini24@yahoo.com)>  
**Date:** March 7, 2014, 7:48:00 PM AKST  
**To:** "[sscott@haines.ak.us](mailto:sscott@haines.ak.us)" <[sscott@haines.ak.us](mailto:sscott@haines.ak.us)>, "[dberry@haines.ak.us](mailto:dberry@haines.ak.us)" <[dberry@haines.ak.us](mailto:dberry@haines.ak.us)>, "[djschnabel@haines.ak.us](mailto:djschnabel@haines.ak.us)" <[djschnabel@haines.ak.us](mailto:djschnabel@haines.ak.us)>, "[jwaterman@haines.ak.us](mailto:jwaterman@haines.ak.us)" <[jwaterman@haines.ak.us](mailto:jwaterman@haines.ak.us)>  
**Subject: Proposed Heliport on Chilkat Lake Road**  
**Reply-To:** Terry Basford <[klehini24@yahoo.com](mailto:klehini24@yahoo.com)>

Dear Assembly Members:

When I voted for managed heliskiing over a decade ago, I did so with the basic assumption that 1) heliports would not be permitted in residential areas; 2) helicopters would not be permitted to fly above or near residential areas. and 3) vulnerable wildlife area would be protected. I believed, with these common-sense guarantees, that a needed winter industry could be fostered while the concerns of Valley residents could be addressed. I would not have voted for it otherwise, nor would many, many others.

The current proposal to establish a heliport on Chilkat Lake Road flies in the face of all this. I vigorously oppose granting the heliport permit for the following reasons:

1) A commercial heliport has no business being in a residential area

I have personal experience with the disruption caused by by helicopters to the residents of Mosquito Lake. During a season years ago, before the current heliski regulations took effect, the heliski operators had free rein, and I and my neighbors were subjected to overhead flights. The disruption was terrible. I recall a neighbor having to yell to be heard over a telephone. I took to wearing a sound muffler whenever I heard a helicopter approaching. Nor was the disruption greatly mitigated when the helicopters flew out of sight just north of Moose Valley (as they would if flying rights were granted for Four Winds)--the noise, barely abated, reverberated down the ridge. I could cite other examples, but the point is made. The residents of Porcupine--no residents--should be subjected to this.

2) There is absolutely no need for it

SEABA claims a heliport is "integral" to their proposed lodge. This is preposterous. The lodge would be located within ten minutes of two established heliports. To claim that people would not book because it would take ten minutes to get to a helicopter instead of two minutes is nonsense.

### 3) Granting the permit would reward SEABA for illegality

Despite very minimal oversight, SEABA has been found in violation of Borough and BLM regulations over fifty times. This is a well-established pattern of contempt for the law. It's puzzling, given this history, that they've retained their permit. Other companies, unlike SEABA, have acted responsibly; they should be encouraged and rewarded, not a company that repeatedly flouts the rules.

### 4) Granting the permit would be a dangerous precedent

If the Assembly grants a heliport permit to SEABA in a residential area, on what basis can it deny it to other companies? Are we to have heliports scattered throughout the Valley, next to homes and families, whenever a heliski operation states it's "integral" to their business?

### 5) Decibel counts don't tell the story

It's the penetrating quality, the reverberation, and the duration of the noise that drove me and my neighbors up a wall that year. The incessant whack! whack! whack! slowly builds, reaches its peak, and then slowly fades. It seems to last forever. Repeated over and over, it's distilled aggravation.

I lived through all the rancor--and it was fierce--that occurred before the current regulations took effect. Since those days the Borough has achieved an effective balance, in which heliskiers and residents can successfully coexist. Permitting heliports in residential areas, or opening up flight privileges in areas like Four Winds, close to homes and families, will destroy that balance. Do we really want to return to those days of acrimony? Let's not ruin what we now have. It's good.

I wish to add that I'm a registered Republican who welcomes responsible economic development. I view heliskiing as a helpful addition to the winter economy. To me this is not an ideological issue. It's simply an issue of basic human civility. You don't put a heliport in the midst of homes and families. It's not civil and it's not right.

Thank you for your consideration of my concerns.

Sincerely,

Terry Basford

