

Michelle Webb

From: Stephanie Scott
Sent: Saturday, March 08, 2014 9:52 AM
To: Michelle Webb; DG_Assembly
Subject: Fwd: conditional use permit for heliport

See below from Nick Jans.

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

Begin forwarded message:

From: NICK JANS <njans@gci.net>
Date: March 8, 2014, 7:55:22 AM AKST
To: <sscott@haines.ak.us>
Subject: conditional use permit for heliport

March 7, 2014

Dear Mayor Scott,

I and my family stand strenuously opposed to granting a Conditional Use Permit for a heliport in the mile 26 area. Such a use would have a strong negative impact on me and my neighbors. Not only would my quiet enjoyment of my own property be severely impacted, but so would my property value. I intend to oppose granting this use with every means at my disposal. I believe granting such a use would represent a clear violation of Haines Borough law and would be indefensible in court. A majority of my neighbors in Eagle Vista are vehemently opposed to a heliport as an infringement on our rights as residential property owners, and we will stand together to oppose this inappropriate and incompatible use of this area.

I grew up on the edge of a forward operations base in northeast Thailand during the Vietnam War with helicopter rotors ringing in my ears, and endured 15 more years of their inescapable, pervasive racket in Juineau. And now, having just completed a household move to rural, out-the-road Haines, specifically in search of the Alaska peace and quiet one might expect of such an area, I am once more faced with the prospect of high-volume and intrusive helicopter noise, imposed on me and my neighbors ex post facto of our property ownership.

Sound carries extraordinarily well in the natural amphitheater of this narrow confluence of valleys, and helicopters, no matter how they are operated, are extremely noisy and penetrating, due to the low frequency of their auditory signature; I believe there is no available mitigation that can sufficiently reduce this highly intrusive and inescapable noise pollution. Not only would I and my neighbors be subjected to it; if we chose to leave, we would be severely impacted by plummeting property values. After all, who would want to buy a rural Alaska homestead echoing with the backwash of repeated landings and take-offs? Truly, the residents of Eagle Vista have

no recourse but to vigorously oppose this inappropriate and potentially illegal incursion on our well-being.

Nothing has changed since this matter first came before the assembly. Heli-skiing and helicopter tourism are already thriving in Haines. Let it continue to do so, where it is already established. Eagle Vista is also already well established, and its residents deserve to have the character of their neighborhood preserved. It is the duty of the Haines Borough Assembly to protect our rights under Borough law.

Sincerely,

Nicholas and Sherrie Jans
Longtime Alaskans, property owners, and soon to be full-time Eagle Vista residents