

**From:** [Thom Ely](#)  
**To:** [Alekka Fullerton](#)  
**Cc:** [Chilkat Valley News](#); [Annette Kreitzer](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment - 9/13/22 BA Meeting  
**Date:** Monday, September 12, 2022 8:13:28 AM

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Haines Borough Assembly Members,

Before you are two massive government subsidy requests to benefit a selected private sector. Ordinance 22-08-625 would grant a property tax break for up to 10 years to a real estate developer and Resolution 22-09-996 would pay for the start of a design build for the Lutak Dock to benefit private industrial export companies. Both of these government benefits would be paid for with public funds, our money raised through taxation. The public has little to benefit from these giveaways, also known as corporate welfare.

Ordinance 22-08-625 would help a wealthy real estate developer with an interest in the construction company that is developing the parcel, realize a larger profit on its land development at the expense of the public purse. Residents are taxed on their property enhancements at the time of increased value. We do not get a 10 year deferral, so a land developer should not get one either. If it is too expensive to develop the property as proposed then they should scale back the development or proceed in phases. Ten years is too long, we need the tax revenue sooner.

Resolution 22-09-996 starts the process for a massive government subsidy for the industrial shipping industry. The Haines Borough should not be in the industrial dock business. If the private sector wants or needs one they should fund it and build it. The public's freight needs are being met by the current shipping method of the roll on/roll off ramp with AML. The public has not had sufficient justification for spending millions of dollars of our money on a massive industrial dock. There has been behind the scenes negotiations with government staff and potential customers. What's the rush? More transparency and public input is warranted before this funding is granted.

Sincerely,  
Thom Ely