

To: Haines Borough Assembly

From : Cindy Buxton, Haines Resident

Re: Lutak Dock Design Contract

At this time, I am opposed to granting funds for this design stage of this project.

Several times in the past, the design process for large projects gotten ahead of the public buy-in for the project, which led to extra divisiveness in the community, and in some cases perhaps a large waste of public funds. The public trust in the borough government is eroded when expensive projects do not fully engage the public prior to the very expensive design phase.

We now have a RORO off dock at Lutak, which appears to be meeting the community needs. I believe the first step is that there needs to be more public discourse, and a number of questions answered before committing a large amount of public funds to pay for a design.

We are all aware that many in the public don't pay attention to these projects until late in the game, when it would have been better to pay attention earlier. Many of us are busy raising our families and earning a living, and cannot attend all the meetings or read the packets. The assembly should take this into account and make a special effort to inform the public on projects that may be contentious.

Questions that should have a public discussion before public funds are committed:

Is the existing RORO dock sufficient for our current needs?

Is the RORO dock unsafe?

Is the goal to build a dock that will meet the needs of large local mine (which is a long way before we know if they will ever produce ore, and when that might be)?

Is the goal to build a dock to assist foreign companies shipping ore?

- If so, does the community support these goals to support transfer ore through town?
- Should the borough build a dock for this purpose, thus subsidizing costs of a foreign firm(s)?
- Will shipping fees cover the additional cost of building a dock suited to their need? How long would it take to pay off design and construction costs?
- Has an economic feasibility study been done to determine the economic benefit, if any, from such a project?
- Should we have contracts in place before committing large funds for the design and construction of such a dock?

Respectfully,

Cindy Buxton, 430 Matrix Drive, Haines, Alaska