

Hello Assembly Members and Mayor,

I would like to add my name to the list of community members who are encouraging the Assembly to postpone the vote on Resolution 22-09-996.

My intention with the below comments is to convey concern about the resolution before the Assembly tonight and its potential implications. There is enough evidence to legitimize the concerns and I feel that it is unfair to suggest otherwise. I respect the effort from staff and elected officials to make Haines a good place to live, even if different ideological factors drive those actions. I do however, believe that it is a mistake to make this decision without input from the community.

First, it is unclear to me why the Borough needs to enter a contract for up to \$310,000 before the community gets a chance to weigh in on what we are paying for. That the people who are to receive the money claim that this is just the way things are done is not convincing to me or many others. This money may not seem like a lot for a multi-million dollar project, but it is clear that many community members would rather see funding for myriad alternative infrastructure needs rather than plans for a dock that would allow ore shipment through our community. For example, with that amount of money we could support the minimal requirements of the Mosquito Lake Community Center for many years, or avoid raising rates for slip owners to cover the needs of the Small Boat Harbor.

I also find it abnormal to insist that we should restore the Lutak Dock to its status as a deep water port (one that could very well accommodate ore shipments) before deciding what it would be used for. Considering that Yukon mining interests have expressed a desire for Haines to build this type of dock (the Yukon Chamber of Commerce even submitted a letter of support for the Borough's grant application saying as much), and considering that we don't have much else to ship that would justify such a structure, it seems pretty likely that the dock will one day be used to ship ore. The community deserves to have clarification about this before handing over that amount of money and entering into a rushed timeline that would not accommodate extensive input.

Lastly, I would like to point out that concern about this project is not just coming from a "special interest group". Lynn Canal Conservation has over 600 members and represents folks from various political and socioeconomic backgrounds. The only unifying factor is the mission to foster responsible stewardship of the Chilkat Valley watersheds and coastal areas of the Upper Lynn Canal. It is also important to note that opposition to this resolution includes many people who are not LCC members.

Therefore, I respectfully ask that the Assembly postpone a decision until the community has been given an opportunity to weigh in via a townhall and/or a COW.

Thank you for your time and consideration of these comments, as well as for your service to the community.

Stacie Evans