

December 11, 2023

Haines Borough Assembly Members,

I am writing to request that the Haines Borough Assembly pause the Lutak Dock Project. Certainly, the Assembly Members, Haines Borough staff and community, in general, could benefit from a candid understanding of the past process, current timeline, design options and long term costs of this monumental infrastructure project.

As Thomas Shadwell so eloquently states, “the haste of a fool is the slowest thing in the world.” I would add that it can also be quite expensive.

Please give borough staff the gift of time- and public scrutiny- to help prevent another public humiliation like the recent Porcupine Road debacle. Frank discussions with MARAD and other agencies need to happen before any more work continues. If FEMA had been consulted with transparency, our community might still be eligible for the funding which has sadly been de-obligated.

I ask that you halt the current work plan to ensure Haines Borough staff- and community- truly understands the parameters of the funding obligations and does not again act in ignorance.

Sincerely,
Erika Merklin