

From John Norton

Date: 12/09/2023

Regarding : Lutak Dock

Mayor Morphet and Assembly Members,

I am writing you at this time to request reconsideration of the Proposed Lutak Dock improvements. I feel that the issues of financial burdens placed upon our community in this development have not been adequately discussed . Judging by the outcry over tax assessments, as well as the long line of families participating in the recent Salvation Army Thanksgiving free meal program, it seems that there is a need to reassess this project to make certain that it fits within the financial framework of our community. I, like many, do not want to be seeing an increase in my property tax or cost of goods that pass across out dock to pay for maintenance costs on a dock that is way beyond our needs.

The idea that taxpayers of Haines would subsidize an ore dock for a private mining entity is very upsetting to many in our community. The recent Porcupine Rd. debacle that may cost taxpayers \$1.4 million dollars that should be used for important community projects underscores why there is widespread community apprehension with the process and outcome on the Lutak Dock plan by our previous Planning Commission and Assembly.

I wonder about potential liabilities such as those reported regarding the expensive marine remediation process in the Skagway harbor and the abandonment of the ore terminal by AIDEA . These events raise concerns regarding significant financial liabilities and environmental deprecations. It makes me wonder why anyone would want to own a dock that would be used for ore transshipment. Unlike Skagway, where remediation costs were paid by the State and AIDEA, would Haines have to bear the financial burden of those impacts? What would happen when a mine closes and environmental reclamation bonds have not been funded properly. Would Haines residents have to assume those financial burdens.

I urge you to undertake a public process to re-assess the Lutak Dock improvements as proposed by our previous Assembly. Might be that the proposal still stands as a good decision. Might be that we need to revise. Let's take time to review this important step for our community.

Thank you for your consideration.

John Norton, Haines, Alaska