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Haines Chamber of Commerce

JAN 08 2024

"Working Together to Build Business & Community"

PO Box 1449 Haines, AK 99827

**HAINES BOROUGH
CLERK'S OFFICE**

907-766-2202 www.haineschamber.org

HAINES BOROUGH ASSEMBLY
2024

JANUARY 8,

RE: Lutak Dock Project

I write today on behalf of the Haines Chamber of Commerce with great concern over the dialog surrounding the Assembly's discussion of the Lutak Dock Project Design. Both pre- and post-election (recent) comments raise the question whether any decision to alter or derail the formerly approved Lutak Dock Project Design might be politically motivated or objectively conducted.

Certainly there are very few known public projects anywhere planned and designed to meet only "Current" or "Immediate" needs of a community because such project planning and use of public funds is short sighted and irresponsible. Such mindsets limit a community to being "no more than it is right now" and is inconsistent with responsible management of public funds and representation of a community as a whole.

Haines businesses are the life blood of this community and to create an atmosphere of limited, or even regressive economic opportunities is inconsistent with continued investment, economic health and prosperity in our business community. As the driver of jobs and livelihoods in a community, commerce should be nurtured and encouraged and not disparaged or discouraged.

The current Lutak Dock Project Design was approved by the Borough's duly elected representatives following lengthy public hearings and due process. To reverse that decision now begs the question of "when a decision by a governmental body is really ever final?" How would a perspective investor of a business in the Haines community perceive the stability of a Borough that approves, and then retroactively dis-approves decisions based on results of local elections? This is the type of turmoil Banana Republics and Third World Countries are notorious for and, thus, why there is little outside investment in them.

We, as a Chamber of Commerce representing business interests across the economic spectrum in the Haines community, urge you to affirm the decision of this Borough to proceed with the Lutak Dock Project Design as previously approved for the sake of stability and commerce in Haines.

Thank You for your consideration.

Craig Franke
President, Haines Chamber of Commerce