

**From:** [Carolann Wooton](#)  
**To:** [Alekk Fullerton](#)  
**Subject:** Lutak Dock Special Meeting  
**Date:** Thursday, December 21, 2023 9:55:24 AM

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*Hi Alekka,*

*Can you please make sure that this letter gets added to the December 22 Special Assembly Meeting on Lutak Dock? Thank you!*

Dear Mayor and Assembly,

I am writing this email as a now private citizen of this community to request that you stop your current activities regarding Lutak Dock. I understand your perspective that now that you hold office you desire to pursue a very specific agenda.

I would like to remind you to be extremely cautious in pursuing said agenda lest you forget that as an elected official, you are now a representative for all of us, even those who did not vote for you. In my multiple years of working on this project I have had many interactions with community members who fully support this current project and are often not vocal.

1. Federal funding agencies can be fickle. If they perceive that the community is in turmoil and disarray over this project, they may decide to pull their funding, regardless of whether that is your intent or not. Until you have fully researched and read all the historical documents related to the project, I ask you to please immediately stop all your current actions as there is a high likelihood of jeopardizing our precious funding for this project.

- The Federal Government is concerned about the benefits of a project for the entire region, state and most importantly the country. That is because their job is to fund projects that benefit the bigger regional and strategic picture. If the Assembly changes this design to a smaller dock and this is not inline with the mission of the Feds, they will likely refuse to change the scope and possibly cancel the funding.
- IF you are successful in bringing the Feds along with you to reduce the scope of work, the Borough's current Contractor has stated they are unwilling to entertain any other design.
- To change the Contractor and contract at this time will require the Borough to go back out to bid for another contractor, award a contract, design, and Permit said design in 6 months. This process is too lengthy and will not meet the MARAD imposed timeclock. The end result is you lose your funding anyway and will likely face lawsuits in the millions that we cannot afford.
- Once the funding is lost, then what??
- While waiting for new funding...if it can be found, what happens if/when the current dock face fails? What if there is loss of life as a result of said failure? What is the going rate for the loss of life? I read somewhere north of \$2 M, but I suspect that is just the surface of the true cost of damages the Borough could face.
- There have been concerns raised many times over the years about the potential for contaminated soils in the dock, what are the implications for the community when said soils goes into our pristine Lynn Canal? I am told the cost to remediate would

run millions...where does the community of Haines come up with that?

2. What the Borough will use this dock for is completely within the control of the Haines Borough and is a great conversation for after the dock is fixed. Worrying about the use for ore transport and stalling or killing the progress on this design is foolish and even short sighted. Frankly the fear that once the dock is fixed we have no control over its uses is dishonest fear mongering.

By the way, all of the answers to these issues and many of the questions or suggestions I have heard at your most recent meetings can be found on the Lutak Dock Project page on the Haines Borough's own website. Have all of you read it? I suggest that you do this before you make any hasty decisions. All the ideas and questions that have been asked and addressed multiple times since 2014 and can be found there. [Lutak Dock Replacement Project | Haines Alaska](#). I think you will find some familiar topics.

Respectfully,  
Carolann Wooton