

Violation of 2.06.030 by Assembly Member Natalie Dawson

Pursuant to Haines Borough Code (HBC) 2.06.030, Standards and Prohibited acts, and 2.06.045 Procedure for declaring potential conflict of interest-Borough officials. Assembly Member **Natalie Dawson** should be **removed** from office per HBC 2.06.055 C. for violations of HBC 2.06.030 Standards and prohibited acts B. Official Acton. No borough official shall participate in any official action in which:

1. **(1)The person or person’s immediate family member is the applicant, a party or has a substantial financial interest in the subject of the official action. And**
2. **(4) The person or the Person’s immediate family member does or will recognizes a substantial financial interest as a result of the action.**
3. **Violation of 2.06.045 A. A borough official who has or may have a substantial financial interest or personal interest in an official action shall disclose the facts concerning that interest...**

HBC 2.060.025, “Substantial financial interest” means a financial interest that would result in a gain or loss exceeding \$1,000 in a single transaction or more than \$5,000 in the aggregate in 12 consecutive months.

“Personal interest” means an interest other than financial interest, and includes any material advantage in the form of a promise, service, privilege, exemption, patronage or advancement. A borough official shall be deemed to have a personal interest in the affairs of any person, business or organization if the official owes a fiduciary duty to it.

Haines Borough Assembly meeting packet for the March 26, 2024 meeting included supporting document: *CJ Letter to Assembly (777 KB)*. Within this letter information showed Assembly Member Dawson being the Director of Strategic Partnerships for the Alaska Venture Fund; additionally the letter included a copy of advertising by the *Alaska Venture Fund* that states: ***Progress: A large mine threatens the Jilkáat Aani Ka Héeni, (Chilkat River Watershed). We’re funding advocacy to protect this region from industrial development and promote sustainable, resilient communities for generations to come.*** <https://chilkatfund.org>

*Alaska Venture Fund’s* website states that they are a 501(C)(3) non-profit, and are soliciting donations to assist with their ‘project’ to “*protect this region from industrial development*”.

During the March 26, 2024 meeting Assembly Member Dawson utilized her time under Assembly Member Comments to bring attention to the recent press release concerning the yearly budget of the exploration work at the Palmer Project, the mining exploration project in the upper tributaries of the Chilkat River that her employer, Alaska Venture Fund, is specifically targeting. Later during the meeting Assembly Member Dawson did not disclose her personal interest or financial interest, recuse herself from the discussion and proceeded to vote on a motion to force the exploration company to disclose details that is outside of any Haines Borough Code Requirements.

At the end of the March 26, 2024 Assembly meeting Assembly member Dawson again did not disclose her conflict of interest and participated in discussion, and votes directly related to legal action between an industrial development and the Borough concerning the development's Conditional Use Permits; the Alaska Venture Fund solicitation includes protecting the "region from industrial development..." as an action on their website.

Assembly Member **Dawson** holds the position: **Director of Strategic Partnerships** with Alaska Venture Funds.

Alaska Venture Funds **solicits funds** to "**protect this region from industrial development**" and states: "A large mine threatens" the Chilkat River Watershed...

Alaska Venture Fund has a **Substantial Financial Interest** to all industrial, mining and business supporting industrial and mining activity in the Chilkat Valley and its tributaries through their solicitation of donations. Natalie Dawson, a representative of Alaska Venture Fund, carries the burden of that **substantial financial interest**, and a **personal interest** through her position.

Assembly Member Dawson's non-disclosure of this conflict of interest since she has taken her oath of office is in violation of the Haines Borough Code of Ethics, and specifically her participation and voting during Assembly action directed at industrial and mining interests in the Chilkat Valley and its tributaries; these actions violate HBC 2.06.030. Natalie Dawson should be removed from Office.