

**From:** [Thom Ely](#)  
**To:** [Julie Cozzi](#)  
**Cc:** [Tresham Gregg](#); [Margaret Friedenauer](#); [Ron Jackson](#); [Diana Lapham](#); [George Campbell](#); [Mike Case](#); [William Seward](#); [Jan Hill](#); [Lynn Canal Conservation](#); [Heather Lende](#); [Tom Morphet](#)  
**Subject:** Heli ski map committee  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 12, 2016 7:20:45 PM

---

Dear Assembly, Mayor and Manager,

Once again the Borough has failed to serve the public interest and is bowing to the demands of an industry that eats up our time and resources. The Heli ski map committee and process is flawed in many ways. The committee should be disbanded until the process is corrected and the AK department of Fish and Game completes their mountain goat study.

Mr Sundberg should have been disqualified from entering his name in the drawing for a community seat as he is a petitioner for map changes and is obviously representing SEABA, his business interest. The code says that there will be one industry representative, now we have two. He is not eligible for another seat, only the industry seat. This is a serious conflict of interest.

The process for reviewing the industry, approved ski areas, skier days, should take place every five years. The companies would be offered a five year permit. If they are not in compliance determined by the annual GPS spot checks, then they forfeit their permit and their skier days are allotted to another company that will follow the rules, simple. We don't need to be revisiting the map every three years.

There is a high probability that when the goat study is completed by the State there will be areas that need to be closed to heli skiing. The Borough should wait to make any decisions on areas to open or close till that study comes out. This is a science based method, not just the whim of a never satisfied with the status quo businesses.

The Borough Assembly and Administration has continually accommodated this industries incessant demands for more. The community is tired of this issue. It would be a non issue if the companies went about their business in a cooperative and compliant manner. It's time for them to focus on safety and improving the track record of their business in Haines.

Sincerely,  
Thom Ely