

From: [Carson Buck](#)
To: [David Long](#)
Subject: Commentary: Lutak Dock Design
Date: Monday, April 4, 2022 9:20:08 PM

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To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my concern about a proposed ore dock at the Lutak Dock. I have lived in Lutak for most of my life and still call Lutak home during summers when I am able to return home from working in Sitka.

Lutak and the Chilkoot watershed is a unique place in Alaska and the world. There are no other places where people can drive to a bay with a tidal flat and estuary, fed by a river and lake system hosting 5 species of salmon, and one of Alaska's most famous and accessible bear viewing opportunities. Lutak and the Chilkoot River are now world-famous and are one of the biggest draws to tourists who want to see bears or catch salmon.

Lutak has changed a lot since I started my life there in 1979 and it is a fragile place that cannot afford to be subjected to the environmental risks of an ore dock. Is it not enough that there are still hundreds of creosote pilings at the old pulp mill site contaminating the food we eat? Is it not enough that one can still find jet A fuel seeping out of the ground on minus tides at the former site of the tank farm? Is it really worth contaminating and risking a healing system after having seen what happened in Skagway and virtually every other ore terminal that has ever existed?

Is it really worth risking the waters where residents of Haines catch their subsistence salmon? Is it really worth risking heavy metals in the seafood we feed our children? Is it really worth trashing the resources that were taken from the Chilkoot People who've lived here for thousands of years before lead and gold were drilled and blasted from the Earth? What will we tell the tourists who came to see the wilds of Alaska, but are told not to eat the seafood because it is no longer safe to eat? How will we rationalize asking our kids to hold their breath when they drive past the dust at the ore dock?

Lutak is the wrong place for an ore dock. Canadian companies can ship their ores to existing ore terminals until the proposed railroads connect Alaska and the Yukon to the rest of North America. The future of Haines is not in selling ourselves out to an ore terminal, but in preserving and protecting the beauty and resources that people come to see. Our quality of life would be forever altered by thousands of trucks and tons of toxic ore brought through town—and not for the better. I urge you to make the sensible choice for the long-term health of Haines' future children and resources and let this project go somewhere else.

Sincerely,

Carson & Naomi Buck
10 Mile Lutak Rd