



March 26, 2010

Dear Committee Members:

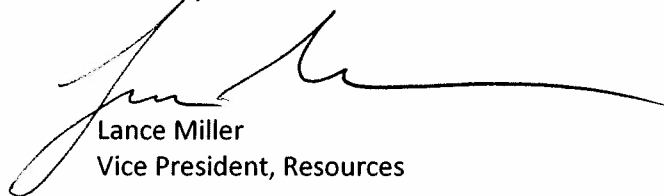
NANA Regional Corporation (NRC) supports HB No. 333, as proposed by Representative Joule. While appropriately safeguarding the health of Alaskans, this important legislation would allow long-needed construction and public works projects to use gravel containing Natural Occurring Asbestos (NOA). This is a vital issue. Since 1999 numerous Ambler projects have been on hold. These projects (adding up to >\$10 M) include:

- The Ambler Airport project - runway extension / upgrades to Grizzly Bridge (the Airport's last improvement – summer of 1991; Grizzly bridge, 1976)
- Construction of new sewer lagoon and access road
- Covering old sewer lagoon (Existing lagoon is breaching; the old lagoon will be covered once the new lagoon is constructed)
- Upgrades to water and sewer services (Last improvements 1973 / 1982)
- Building of new homes (Last new homes completed 1991 with the Northwest Inupiaq Housing Authority)
- Upgrades to existing dumpsite (Opened in 1976)

NRC has extensively explored the Ambler area for a gravel source free of NOA, but no such gravel has been found to date. Accordingly, NRC believes that legislation is a crucial part of the long-term solution to an important issue affecting rural Alaskans, including residents of Ambler. In parts of Alaska, the use of NOA-containing material in construction and public works projects is necessary to the maintenance and improvement of local infrastructure and the long-term health and vitality of some rural communities.

If NRC can provide any further assistance or information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Lance Miller
Vice President, Resources