



March 23, 2012

Representative Mike Chenault, Speaker
Alaska House of Representatives
State Capitol Room 208
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Speaker Chenault,

My Chairman Nick Jackson and I thank you and Representative Mike Hawker for talking through our concerns re HB 9. We were assured that the eminent domain language in HB 9 is no different than what is currently written in state law. It would be helpful to insure the due process within AS 09.55.240 – 09.55.460 exercising the power of eminent domain, will remain the same under the current Alaska Statute. Thank you for understanding our wish to protect our private landowner rights and promote responsible resource development.

We understand that the HB 9 procurement language is intended to get this project moving quickly. Our request is only that the procurement process be fair and equitable and take into consideration local skills and resources whenever possible. We shared an unfortunate example whereby Ahtna was unaware of a significant IDIQ contract issued a year ago regarding the Susitna-Watana Dam Project. The Ahtna people have a documented use of the lands that are currently being studied. This is a good example where partnering with Ahtna would have expedited the cultural research currently being conducted by a contractor who is attempting to collect information we already have.

Please consider the following points.

1. Purchase of ANCSA-owned Resources - Ahtna, Incorporated respectfully requests that an amendment be added to HB 9 that prioritizes the use of ANCSA owned resources, as this project evolves.
2. State Boards and Commissions – Ahtna supports the appointment of ANCSA corporations to public boards; especially public boards for large economic development projects that cross ANCSA lands.

P.O. Box 649 • Glennallen, Alaska 99588
Phone: (907) 822-3476 • Fax: (907) 822-3495

Collectively, Alaska Native Corporations are the state's largest private landowner. We contribute millions of dollars to the state's economy. We are heavily invested in the future of Alaska. We want to be partners in state development, and we can be if we're part of the decision-making process and we have a voice in how development is planned in this state.

3. Tribal Consultation – Ahtna, Incorporated asks the State of Alaska to utilize a consultation protocol with locally impacted Tribes and Alaska Native Corporations for projects that cross ANCSA lands. The federal government has a mandated tribal consultation process. We would ask that the State consider using a similar approach for state funded projects that cross ANCSA lands.

Thank you for listening to our concerns. Based on our conversation today, Ahtna Incorporated withdraws our objections to HB 9. Ahtna, Incorporated supports an economically sound gas line project that will lower the cost of energy, provide partnering opportunities and job opportunities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michelle Anderson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end of the last name.

Michelle Anderson
President

Cc: House Finance Committee
Ahtna Board of Directors