

Jordan Shilling

From: Rebecca Schwanke <becky99588@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, April 14, 2017 9:55 AM
To: Sen. John Coghill; sen.mia.constello@akleg.gov; Sen. Pete Kelly; Sen. Bill Wielechowski; Sen. Mike Dunleavy
Cc: Sen. Click Bishop; Rep. David Talerico; Rep. George Rauscher
Subject: Please do not confirm Ms. Lindemuth

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Dear Senate Judiciary Committee,

I apologize I was not able to call in to testify on Ms. Lindemuth's confirmation hearing earlier this week, but I respectfully ask that you do not confirm her as AG.

Ms. Lindemuth has shown that she does not have the history or fortitude to navigate our State's public access cases in the best interest of all Alaskans as referenced by her decision to work with Ahtna Inc. to settle this most recent attempt by one of our most aggressive native corporations.

Whether requested by Gov. Walker or decided by herself, this case was critical to solidifying Alaska's right to exercise access authority through RS2477 law, and she should not have opted to settle. Dedicated State attorneys and staff have put many thousands of hours into building a very strong case for the Klutina Lake Road RS2477 over the past 10 years. The State of Alaska was positioned to win this case and put this issue to bed once and for all.

This road starts 10 miles from my home and I use it regularly. I was very much looking forward to finally having the right to park, hunt small game with my family, camp, launch our boat, and otherwise use this access route the way our State law intends. Paying Ahtna Inc. to use this access road is not acceptable and does not have to happen to maintain a good public working relationship with this corporation. They knew they were going to lose this court case. There is no acceptable settlement that benefits all Alaskans, period. Any settlement outside full deference to RS2477 in this case will absolutely pull critical rights off the table. A closed door settlement is not the way to go in this case.

For Ms. Lindemuth to take the April court date off the table was unacceptable. She pulled the rug out from under the people of this state, and the unintended consequences of a settlement in this case will likely go well beyond what we envision today.

Regardless of what you have heard about this settlement, the State of Alaska is negotiating away rights for all Alaskans in this settlement and it will set a precedent that will harm our ability to pursue RS2477's for the enforceable future. This case was vital to our future access across the state.

I have worked with Ahtna Inc. in a professional capacity with ADF&G for 12 years, and I continue to work along side them now in the public arena as a neighbor, advocating for appropriate and fair hunting regulations. They have proven time and time again to be a formidable, relentless, and untruthful group.

This organization is aggressive and relentless in pursuing native rights across the board, and access issues are at the top of their list. Ahtna Inc. is not a reasonable organization. They push and push for every inch, eroding the

State's authority in every arena of outdoor recreation. From land swap requests to signing MOU's with the Dept. of the Interior, their history speaks for itself.

The State of Alaska can only lose in this settlement regardless of what Lindemuth and Gov. Walker will have you believe. Do not accept their words of ease. This is not a smart decision for now or for the long term.

By eliminating or diminishing the RS2477 authority in this case, and settling for a federally managed 17b easement, this settlement would be a significant setback in standing up for Alaska's rights and existing law.

Please do not allow this settlement to go forth, and do not confirm Ms. Lindemuth for AG.

I would very much like to see an AG that has a backbone and can clearly articulate the State's authority. Ms. Lindemuth has proven she cannot do this.

She and Gov. Walker are setting the stage for future negotiations with Ahtna Inc. and other native corporations to further erode the State's authority across the board.

Please do not accept this outcome. Let Gov. Walker find another AG that can handle our affairs fairly.

Respectfully,

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