

HB

870

STATE OF ALASKA

JAY S. HAMMOND
GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

POUCH D -- JUNEAU 99811

April 9, 1976

Honorable Theodore G. Smith
Vice Chairman
House Resources Committee
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Mr. Smith:

The enclosed booklets show the progress to date of the Bristol Bay Regional Development Council. The opening pages of the Bristol Bay - Its Potential and Development lists a detailed work program for an economic development specialist located in Bristol Bay. Even though it outlines more work than one person could hope to accomplish in one year, it directly answers the original charge to the Commission, that being a thorough evaluation of the economic alternatives to the red salmon industry. The original legislation asked that the Council:

Explore the short-term and long-term economic factors and federal and State programs and policies affecting the Bristol Bay region with a view toward producing a long-term economic and social development program for the region consistent with the living patterns of the resident population and integrating natural resources development with the environmental concerns of the region.

The economic factors have been explored, the analysis stage has been completed. What we now need is funding for an implementation stage.

Incidentally, the last time I appeared before your committee, with two University of Alaska professors who aided the Bristol Bay Native Association, some comments concerned the waste of money on consultants. This Council has been unique in one sense: Over 90% of the 18 month appropriation for planning has gone to the Bristol Bay Native Association. They have called the shots, and have spent the money, and we on the Council feel they have done a pretty good job at it.

Sincerely,



Jim Edenso
Deputy Commissioner

Enclosure

102.24

MEMORANDUM

State of Alaska

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

TO: Honorable Nels Anderson, Chairman
House Resources Committee

DATE: March 9, 1976

FILE NO:

TELEPHONE NO:

FROM: Jim Edenso, Deputy Commissioner
Department of Commerce & Economic
Development

SUBJECT: Bristol Bay Regional Development
Council

The Bristol Bay Native Association, which has served as the primary contractor to the Council since its inception eighteen months ago, is prepared to resume developmental activities to implement the recommendations of Bristol Bay, Its Potential and Development, and Bristol Bay, the Fisheries and the People, the two planning reports issued by the Council.

BBNA under contract will follow the following work program:

- 1) Strongly urge that federal legislation establishing future land use, carry a provision that specifically guarantees traditional users the right to traditional usage on federally withdrawn lands,
- 2) Urge the Bureau of Indian Affairs to establish a Regional Office in Dillingham,
- 3) Request Congress to authorize and appropriate funds under PL 93-638, the Indian Self-Determination and Indian Educational Assistance Act, to allow small villages to hire a village leader and establish a village administrative office,
- 4) Encourage the U.S. Forest Service to make an inventory of timber resources of Bristol Bay and determine the maximum sustainable yield,
- 5) Strongly urge the Forest Service Laboratory in Juneau to evaluate the grazing potential of forest lands in the Bristol Bay region when funds are available,
- 6) Urge the Soil Conservation Service to make an Environmental Impact Statement of the effect of reindeer herding in Bristol Bay including an estimate of the holding capacity,
- 7) Seek funds from EDA to conduct a manpower assessment and training program to support a reindeer industry,
- 8) Strongly urge that specific legislation be enacted guaranteeing traditional usage of the land for designated state restricted lands, for example, the proposed Wood-Tikchik State Park,
- 9) Develop bi-lingual and bi-cultural curriculums in educational facilities of the region which include industrial and commercial training,

- 10) Urge the Department of Labor to develop a training program for vocational skills needed in construction and in possible oil and gas development,
- 11) Develop a projected construction schedule and prepare funding applications for upgrading airports in Bristol Bay villages; Priority will be given to those villages needing airfield improvements in order to develop their business potential,
- 12) Methodically contact and urge the Department of Fish and Game to develop and initiate projects to replenish the stock of salmon,
- T 13) Ask the Department of Fish and Game to evaluate the impact of reindeer herding on the game resources of Bristol Bay,
- 14) Complete application forms to enable the Department of Public Works to build a boat harbor at Perryville and Chignik so that ~~South~~ fishermen can fish on a year-round basis,
- 15) Lay preliminary ground work to establish a boat harbor also at Naknek and South Naknek.
- 16) Work with the University of Alaska to develop training programs which are designed to develop entrepreneurial and management talent among Bristol Bay residents. This training must be conducted in Bristol Bay,
- 17) Urge the University to consider establishing an Agricultural Experiment Station in the Bristol Bay region,
- 18) Encourage and demand that the Tourism Management Program of the University of Alaska be utilized in the Bristol Bay region,
- 19) Contract petroleum firms and urge them to continue to train Bristol Bay residents to operate oil-related equipment,
- 20) Continue to work closely with village corporations and the Bristol Bay Native Association to alert them to possible profitable opportunities arising from Bristol Bay Native Corporation activities in the minerals and energy area,
- 21) Consider working with Bristol Bay fishermen and processors to develop a promotional campaign to promote Alaska seafood,
- 22) Aid the economic development planner on the Bristol Bay Native Association staff in gathering complete information on all funding sources,
- 23) Develop additional strategies to stimulate local initiative, which entails a follow-up on the village priorities listed in Bristol Bay, the Fishery and the People.

- 24) Identify location, capacity and operating condition of sawmills in the Bristol Bay region,
- 25) Assist the villages in feasibility studies of local lumber mills or log mills,
- 26) Evaluate and consider conducting a manpower training assessment of the Bristol Bay region to determine the productive capacity for arts and crafts,
- 27) Examine the advantages of developing a marketing system for arts and crafts in cooperation with existing arts and crafts marketers,
- 28) Promote the private establishment of retail outlets for arts and crafts in cooperation with lodges and other tourist-related facilities,
- 29) Request that Alaska Natives Arts and Crafts (ANAC) present a training program for village craftsmen,
- 30) Encourage the study and possible development of a specialty products industry for salmon,
- 31) Encourage further study of the development of a possible ground-fishery,
- 32) File application for office-municipal facilities in five Bay villages.
- 3) 33) Follow through with the Economic Development Administration on the the force account contract to modify the existing cold storage facility at Dillingham.

This will be more than enough to keep one person busy full-time through FY-1977.

It will insure that the two reports, with their comprehensive recommendations, completed under the original State appropriation do not "just gather dust" but are implemented by the people residing in the region.

Three applicants have indicated interest in pursuing the above work program. Any indications of continuation of the Council to June 1977 would greatly aid in attracting the best qualified development specialist from Bristol Bay. This Department will work closely with the BBNA representation to insure the efforts toward the above 33 point work program are productive.