

CAPITOL
SITE
SELECTION

2666 Northrup Pl.
Anchorage, Alaska 99504
May 7, 1976

An open letter to Legislators of the 1976 Alaska Legislature

Re. Observations on the Capital Site Selection Committee and its affairs, and ours, the long-time concerned citizen-residents.

Greetings to Senator Frank Ferguson:

This letter-effort is perhaps unfortunately but necessarily being copied to send you, our elected leaders and decision-makers. The following considerations are definitely not being pursued for simple publicity but solely in the hope of finding you in good conscience with clear thinking and solid determination for whatever necessary action you may take, not including political expediency or simply under pressure from any group or legal entity.

Having previously been able to fortuitously attend a meeting in Anchorage and having now attended the recent Palmer meeting of the CSS Committee variously billed as informational, public input, or hearing, I am appalled at the superficiality of promotional foot and mouth work selling fanciful public belief in the site selection committee process and selections, which now proceed with neither appropriate revelations nor slick-copy restraints.

It is time someone blew the whistle on this already incredibly costly business of what may be simply an aggressively massive deception.

This latter entire meeting and small-group-leading was glossed-over with and full of rhetorical blow and pictorial show, only, entirely lacking in solid foundation of vital substance which might allow reasoned public judgement in the later crucial voter's decision. Thus the effect is one of perpetration of a massive speed-framed promotional deception or fraud, demeaning to reasonable and critical intelligence.

I predict from long personal on-the-land familiarity and observation that the lake-glamour recreation scenic site, the Larson Lake 'Footprint', if chosen would ultimately prove to be an absolute disaster. Talkeetna weather data can no-way be valid for the 6 to 7 miles eastward foothills elevations and conditions, which goes for extrapolations or interpolations too. The very local meteorologic-climatologic effects could be devastating. Putting a warning briefly: weather conditions, frequently and seasonally, and other demanding factors would make Juneau look good, and at what a price.

Broadly, just as this attractive lake-site as a scenic gem would be a gargantuan illusionary bauble, so too I suspect the other sites may have been selected out of relative incompetence of study and preliminary or later verification as to propriety. As an example, while Capital City effects on Susitna Easin and Upper Cook Inlet fisheries might be insignificant (the chances are they WILL be very significant -- and adverse) there are no responsible estimates of turbidity or siltation increases, reduced streamflows, hydrothermal and other pollution influences; nor these same as result of possible building of the Devil's Canyon-Watana power dam complex which effects

Open letter - continued.

must be anticipated and considered in concert. In short, absolutely no overall present in-depth environmental situation data or impact assessments in detail have been presented. Considered voter judgment is thereby completely precluded and accordingly the entire principle of the individual's informed and meaningful vote is effectively manipulated. On this basis alone the entire issue should go to court.

If you have respect and compassion for land heritage, humanity, and treasure of state I urgently request that you exert your every influence to by all means and at any cost delay or defeat measures relating to the committee and site selection. (Any such selection should ultimately be done not with all deliberate haste but with every deliberate caution of control and constraint at whatever cost.) Then take the long hard look at the whole mess with an extremely critical eye on the lack, paucity, and superficiality of so-called data and information claimed site-specific. Not last by all means demand, or reveal lack-of, credible-penetrating geologic, soils, time-extent and frequency of hydrologic-hydrographic data and hydrodynamics of future supply-demand and effluents data, as well as present source-origin, frequency, and continuity of meteorologic data, and a responsibly fine-detailed baseline biologic survey; also, the affecting impact on Susitna Basin-Matanuska Valley areawide lands, economics, population, potential for lands and waters pollution along with how best to deal with land scalper-speculator effects, and their mitigation, and naturally associated developer, contractor, builder interests. The entire matter of the supply now or later and reservation of energy sources to the state and the people should be defined and stated. The committee executive director declares that there is a large stack of this information "to be made available - - - later", whenever that is, and which will surely not be a moment too soon in any event. Thus I seriously questioned and do question here why these meetings are being held at all; merely a facade? for the show-benefit of the committee and not the public and concerned individual? an opportunity to 'prove' the use-value-cost of that beautiful movie of still pictures?

For really much more than this but for even less, I strenuously and vehemently protest being taken for the present kind of ride by a committee or its director no matter how mandated or purportedly honest it may be. I have an extremely compelling suspicion that we are caught-up in an on-rushing situation of what may essentially be dupes and fakers relying on seers and fakirs for some of their basic 'data' and 'information'; a kind of tragic Pacific Rim-World-watergate; or, perhaps just another enormously sad example of the legendary classic of the halt leading the deaf-dumb-and-blind. But in this case it could really be to Suckersville, U.S.A.

I hope you can all help us to know somewhat better where we are going before we get there, so that when we do get there we won't all be just too sorry.

Sincerely, with best wishes,

cc: Gov. Jay Hammond
The Juneau Daily Empire
The Anchorage Daily News

Al Wicks - Anchorage
Alan E. Wicks

This letter may be printed or otherwise copied but only in its entirety.

Capital Relocation Committee

100 East Fireweed Lane
Anchorage, Alaska 99503
279-6015

April 7, 1976

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Fairbanks News-Miner
Fairbanks
Alaska

Dear Mr Editor:

Your recent editorial publicly expressing your thanks to Rep. Bill Parker (D) Anchorage, was rather incomplete as to what his amendment really entailed.

His amendment would have given the voters an opportunity to vote on any site that they wished besides the three sites selected by the Capital Site Selection Committee.

Rep. Bill Parker is the rep. who pushed for \$1,700,000.00 for the Site Selection Committee budget to pick these three ideal sites....over your editorial objections, the Capital Relocation Comm. objections, and the objections of most all of the voters.

How could he in good conscience then negate the work of the Site Selection Comm after they had spent all the money he wanted appropriated to them?

In addition, his amendment completely over-looked other provisions of the initiative approved by the voters, such as; the areas picked were to comprise no less than 64,000 acres of State owned land, the areas were not to be within 30 miles of Anchorage or Fairbanks, was to be assessable by railroad and also be able to offer 24 hour air service.

Many of the voters of Alaska would have been not only fooled by his amendment, but also thrown into utter confusion.

According to your editorial he is quoted as saying, "The Capital Move initiative is a creature of the people, and I don't have to tell you that I think that the right of Initiative is sacred". How could he then propose an amendment (that looks harmless on the surface) that completely destroys most of the important parts of the initiative?

You did oppose the Capital Move.

Perhaps this is why you gave him thanks.

Very truly yours,


Frank W. Harris

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