



City of Gustavus, Alaska
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April 7, 2021

The Honorable Jesse Keihl
Alaska State Representative
State Capitol Room 419
Juneau AK, 99801
Sent via e-mail: senator.jesse.kiehl@akleg.gov

Dear Senator Keihl:

The City Council has received many inquiries concerning the ADOT work at the Gustavus Airport and the procedures taken to ensure that PFAS is not inadvertently transferred offsite. In addition, there is concern over the antiquity of important documents directing the procedures for the work, such as the Work Plan and the Soil Management Plan. It appears that the 2011 Work Plan and the very recent Soil Management Plan was hastened to meet the scheduled start date. These concerns are exacerbated by resulting in failure to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act which is a requirement for a federal project such as this.

The City Council is not suggesting stopping the project. However, we would like to see ADOT respond to the concerns of the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC). Although ADEC has approved the project, it appears that there are still concerns by ADEC. PFAS has hit the public sphere relatively recently and therefore is not part of many regulatory documents. This should not give blanket authority for ADOT to push through projects on the technicality that is not listed in some approved decision making guide.

Senator Keihl, I know you are aware of our PFAS situation and ask that you discuss this situation with ADOT, ensuring the community of Gustavus that no PFAS will be transferred offsite contaminating wells or other property. We are encouraged that ADOT are getting more sample results and modifying their project hazard controls to reduce the potential for contamination spread, especially to the groundwater and surface waters near occupied areas. We intend to monitor the situation closely and keep our residents informed. We will appreciate it if ADOT and ADEC will keep us updated as they move forward and keep the process as transparent as possible to assure public confidence.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "B. C.", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Brittney Cannamore, Mayor

Cc: Alaska Representative Sara Hannon, Lance Mearig, P.E. ADOT Southcoast Region
Director (lance.mearig@alaska.gov), Bill O'Connell, ADEC Environmental Program
Manager, ADEC Contaminated Sites Program (bill.oconnell@alaska.gov)