

To: Nature Conservancy Group

January 5, 2024

Re: Hoonah Indian Association's Request for TNC/Gustavus Lands

The request for the title for the Gustavus Legacy Lands to be turned over to the Hoonah Indian Association should be summarily denied.

To turn over the titles to any outside group unrelated to the original intent, plan, facilitation to completion (and the considerable sacrifice and support of local residents) would be a complete breach of trust and negligent management on the part of the Nature Conservancy Group. Indeed, the mission of your organization in working with groups such as Gustavus to preserve and set aside lands would likely bring future hesitancy and harm if an almost "bait and switch" like action with an entire disgruntled community is allowed to move forward.

These lands are cherished pristine acres that are rightly and properly considered not only a prize for Gustavus and all of SE Alaska's global visitors today, but (and more importantly), a future guarantee tomorrow that the area will remain as a preserved space—a pride that was taken so seriously that many Gustavus residents worked hard and long for their future generations, parting with hard-earned funds to support and see to fruition. To throw that relationship and trust between two groups away (the TNC and local Gustavus) is just plain wrong.

On behalf of the Gustavus Historical Archives & Antiquities organization, we implore the TNC to quickly take decisive action and without reservation or caveats deny this request from Hoonah Indian Association. The current and understood agreements (and original intent) on the management and ownership of this land must be protected and maintained as is. It should never be considered for sale or as a gift to be traded upon request. To do so would be a breach of all that we believed to be a sacred trust and moral obligation.

Sincerely,

Lee & Linda Parker

Gustavus Historical Archives and Antiquities