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January 12, 2024

Ms. Ivy Spohnholz
Director, The Nature Conservancy in Alaska
ivy.spohnholz@tnc.org

Re: Change of Ownership or Administration of The Nature Conservancy Gustavus Land

Dear Ms. Spohnholz,

My wife Sheri and I are currently residents of Gustavus and first lived here in 1988. We were here when Gustavus residents were motivated to form the Gustavus Land Legacy which was a community effort to preserve the treasured Gustavus forelands. This was done over a period of years and involved raising \$120,000 from local donors and community fund raising events, as well as working with the land owners at the time to look at ways to preserve the forelands. The Land Legacy found a partner in this effort, The Nature Conservancy, that had the resources to transform the Land Legacy's vision into reality. It's due to the initiative and effort of the Gustavus people who organized and supported the Land Legacy that resulted in the preservation of the Gustavus forelands.

After reflecting on all that was said at Gustavus City Council work session this past Monday, reading the letters to you from other community members, your letter to the Gustavus Mayor and Ms. Nave's memo, my thoughts about TNC and its involvement in the management of the forelands has completely changed.

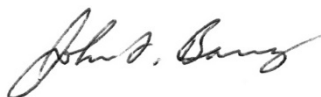
I just found out about TNC's investigation of a possible transfer of ownership to the Hoonah Indian Association on Saturday. I was shocked to find out there has been an effort by TNC to investigate the possibility of a land transfer to HIA that has been going on for more than a year without TNC informing the community of Gustavus. It is not comprehensible to me that a report was completed by TNC and presented to HIA in April, 2023 and the Gustavus community did not find out about it until just this month.

How this "deep dive", as it was described during the work session, into the history and basis for the original transfer from the Alaska Mental Health Trust to TNC could be done without involving the Gustavus community is more than just an oversight and due to short staffing, it is at least gross negligence and has the appearance of deceit.

After listening to you and Ms. Nave and reading the January 6 memo "Planning for the future of Gustavus Forelands Preserve", it appears that the TNC Alaska Chapter is going to continue with this initiative. Although you said any move to change the status of the land would involve the Gustavus community and proceed at "the speed of trust", because of how this has unfolded over the past week I no longer have any trust in TNC.

In the April 15, 2004 Project Abstract there are two paragraphs describing the transfer of some of the lands to the City of Gustavus within ten years. It's now time to follow through with this.

Sincerely,



John Barry