**From:** Layne Parker

**To:** Liesl Barker

**Subject:** Fwd: opposition to transfer of Gustavus lands to HIA

**Date:** Tuesday, January 9, 2024 20:14:53

For reference. Thank you. Layne Toshua Parker

907-209-0305

Sent in a hurry from my iPhone Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Layne Parker <superhero17@hotmail.com>

**Date:** January 7, 2024 at 5:06:30 PM AKST

**To:** alaska@tnc.org

**Subject: RE: opposition to transfer of Gustavus lands to HIA**

ATTN: Ivy Spohnholz

I would like to voice my opposition to transferring any Gustavus lands owned by TNC to HIA for two reasons:

1. The lands currently held by TNC were purchased in part by funds raised from the local Gustavus community through the Gustavus Land Legacy. The local community contributed to the purchase of the land with the promise that it would remain recreational and hunting lands for the Gustavus community in perpetuity. TNC may hold title to the lands but you still owe a debt to the Gustavus community who raised funds for its purchase to manage the property as promised. HIA was never part of that acquisition process because they had no presence in Gustavus.
2. Any claim HIA may make as Gustavus being their native homelands are inaccurate. The Gustavus forelands are not HIA’s homeland. This land didn’t exist in its present form pre-ice age. What we know as the Gustavus forelands are result of glacial outwash from the last ice age. Sedimentary layers at depth which have been studied are full of sea shells and suggest that this area was likely under water pre-ice age. The new land created here was not inhabited in any permanent settlement by HIA after the ice age. Most of what now is TNC lands would have been uninhabitable mud flats. There is a well documented history of those who settled and homesteaded the Gustavus area after the ice retreated and HIA isn’t part of that. If you want to read about the history of people groups in Gustavus there are numerous books I can send to you. HIA has no legitimate claim to these lands.

Regards,

Layne Toshua Parker

4th generation Gustavus resident 907-209-0305

Sent in a hurry from my iPhone