



October 14, 2016

Alaska Board of Fisheries
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, Alaska 99811-5526

Greetings Board Members:

The City and community of Dillingham strongly urge you to designate Dillingham as the location for the 2018 Bristol Bay Board of Fisheries meeting.

The community of Dillingham has been very happy to host the meeting several times in the past and we're confident that we can provide the facilities and services needed for the meeting. To assist with your consideration, we would provide the following information. We have multiple daily scheduled commercial airline flights from Anchorage with some flight times of less than an hour as well as daily airline service within the region. We have multiple hotels and B&B's and multiple restaurants and catering services. We have cell phone service and high speed internet. The cell phone provider has been very cooperative about any special services for large events (including that they provided multiple temporary phones to agencies during large events). We have high speed internet that is reliable. Local organizations have arranged services of all types to support the meetings. Our school facility has been an excellent location for the Board meetings in the past. The school and other agencies provided equipment, staff and extra space to make sure that the attendees were comfortable and that board and staff were accommodated. In fact the school and the UAF Bristol Bay Campus (next door) were very cooperative in the past with assuring that internet and other equipment associated with administrative support is available to groups using the facilities. We have a hospital and excellent ambulance, fire and police service.

Probably most important is the fact that our communities and residents are dependent upon the fishery and it is important that they have the opportunity to participate. Having the meeting in the region assures that residents from throughout the Bristol Bay region will have access to the Board of Fish meeting; the same will absolutely not be true if the meetings are held in Anchorage. The cost of travel and housing prevents most of our residents from participating in this most critical part of the management of the resource in our region. In past years the City of Dillingham contributed \$5,000 to \$10,000 towards assisting residents with travel expenses. We will not have the ability to do that for the upcoming meeting because of the need to divert funding to services that were previously supported by the State such as the correctional facility, senior services program and other.

We were most honored to host a visit by President Barack Obama in 2015. The White House logistical needs were huge and we were able to accommodate their needs. We're sure that we can do the same for the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

In closing, we urge you to designate Dillingham as the location and we look forward to welcoming you in 2018.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alice A. Ruby". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Alice Ruby
Mayor