



City and Borough of Sitka

100 Lincoln Street Sitka, Alaska 99835

Coast Guard City, USA

January 9, 2015

To Whom it May Concern:

I am pleased to support the Island Institute's grant proposal for the 2015 Sitka Symposium.

Our community is already seeing regional signs of climate change, from the rotting of our yellow cedars to the die-off of our sea stars to rising levels of ocean acidification. Given our reliance on fossil fuels to move around and to ship food and other products, we will also be widely affected by the wider global economic impacts of climate change. The Sitka Island Institute's upcoming initiatives to explore what it means to be a rural community in times of rapid climate change will be welcome in our town, and will go a long way towards fostering conversations that we need to have here in order to ensure that Sitka continues to prosper for generations to come.

Given the work that the Island Institute has done around important civic issues - ranging from conversations around the closing of the pulp mill in the 1990's to work around the Local Waste Management Plan or their more recent work as part of the Local Foods Assessment - I believe that they are uniquely qualified to lead humanistic explorations around the effect of climate change on small communities like our own.

The Island Institute has long cultivated a climate of conversation around big ideas here in Sitka, and I look forward to their work here on this deeply important topic. Please consider funding the initiatives comprising the 2015 Sitka Symposium.

Sincerely,

Mim, McConnell, Mayor
City and Borough of Sitka