

City and Borough of Sitka

100 Lincoln Street • Sitka, Alaska 99835

Coast Guard City, USA

February 4, 2019

Congressman Don Young
2314 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

471 W. 36th Avenue, Suite 201
Anchorage, AK 99503

Dear Congressman Young,

The City and Borough of Sitka (CBS) is facing many hurdles in the future including securing funding for our long list of failing infrastructure and capital projects.

Top of the community priority list is installing an \$18,000,000 critical secondary water treatment facility to remain in compliance with federal guidelines for water quality and protecting the Blue Lake FERC licensing which requires inspections of the penstock every five years. We have initiated the loan process but seek any federal funding available.

CBS spent over \$145,000,000 to raise the height of the Blue Lake Hydroelectric Dam from 145 feet to 228 feet and increase renewable power generation by 16 megawatts. To protect this investment and in accordance with requirements, CBS will be without a source of raw water during times of penstock system maintenance required every five years by federal guidelines.

In addition, Blue Lake surface water is the source for the community's drinking water and we have experienced several high source turbidity readings during recent large storm events. Future high turbidity readings will require filtration to ensure federal and state water quality regulations are met.

Both of these result in closure of our community's water source and push us to develop an additional source to ensure schools, hospitals, restaurants, etc. have potable water at all times. As a regulated and approved source of drinking water is vital to the community, CBS is seeking funding, to offset the cost of this unplanned expense. We request your assistance in securing \$18,000,000 of federal funding for the construction of the critical secondary water treatment facility.

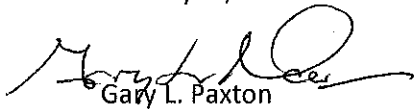
Other capital requests include Green Lake Hydroelectric Dam overhaul. Green Lake Dam will undergo relicensing after 40 years, including FERC costs and major capital investment like turbine upgrades which will further stress the cost of electricity to our citizens and business community.

We are looking forward to meeting with you and staff in May as we will travel to Washington D.C. to relay the urgency of the need. Please let us know your recommendations on agency contacts to meet with in regards to securing federal funding.

During my term as Mayor, I look forward to working with you and your staff on a number of different issues essential to Sitkans. Please let me know if I can answer any questions or provide additional information.

Providing for today...preparing for tomorrow

Thank you,



Gary L. Paxton

Mayor

assemblypaxton@cityofsitka.org

Don.

We need you
here - See you
in May.

God Bless

