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**Sent:** Friday, April 18, 2008 2:59 PM

**Subject:** King Cove Road

April 18, 2008

Honorable Committee Members,

I am a current resident of Cold Bay, Alaska having first moved here in 1988. I believe that I have attended every public meeting held in Cold Bay since 1999 or whatever year they started having them, regarding the access problem for King Cove. I work for the Federal Aviation Administration as a controller so I am very familiar with the air access situation and the weather we have out here.

Over the years I have seen the weather that keeps the planes from flying and know that in lots of instances this will be the same weather that will keep the road from being kept open. During a storm the blowing and drifting snow would keep any proposed road closed or make it so incredibly expensive to try and keep it open the borough would not be able to afford it. In the late 80's I had an employee that lived at the hatchery approximately 3 miles from town, during the winter there were numerous occasions when she had to follow a front end loader to work taking well over an hour to get here and frequently electing to stay in the clinic rather than have them come back and get her at the end of the shift. I also recall when after a storm the weather was great but the planes would not fly to King Cove because the road to their airport was not open.

The snow removal is not just during the actual storm as this area has near constant wind, the average wind speed at the airport is 17 knots, so even after a storm has passed through the wind keeps drifting snow. I have seen our grader make a pass through a drift and within minutes it is closing back in, sometimes being impassable in an hour or so, and this is with no new snow falling, in weather good enough for an aircraft to be operating.

There is no way to gauge how the snow would drift over the proposed road but I would suspect there would be many areas of heavy drifting that would require a loader or blower to proceed any emergency vehicle transporting a patient from King Cove to Cold Bay. As I mentioned above you could figure on covering about three miles an hour. This does not even take into account the road through the mountainous area. The existing portion along the water is not usable so some major engineering and tons of money are needed to conquer that problem.

As stated I have attended all public meetings held in Cold Bay and am on record as opposing the current hover craft and recommending a deep water vessel and a breakwater system at the Cold Bay dock. I still believe that this is the only logical answer to this

problem. After tens of millions of dollars spent to no avail it is time to cut the tax payer's losses and invest in a deep water boat.

Sincerely

John Maxwell

Mayor City of Cold Bay