

## Monica Armstrong

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**From:** Walter Jack [agn.tribal@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 02, 2011 2:05 PM  
**To:** Denali Commission  
**Subject:** comments

Denali Commission,

The three (3) most important issues:

The Denali Commission would like to hear from Alaskans on the following three topics:

1. Why is the Denali Commission important to rural Alaska?

Comment: When I was the mayor for Angoon I was honored and privileged to cut the ribbon on the newly constructed clinic, of which, Denali Commission played a big funding role to successfully complete the project. Very necessary program(s) to continue as Denali can help other communities that do not have that type and other necessary facilities.

2. What recommendations would you make as to the manner in which the Denali Commission does business?

Comment: Fund a few project(s) each year on a "Regional Basis" similar to the 12 regionals. Have our Congressional Delegation fund according to the one major project per region and a few other smaller projects per year.

3. What should the future role / focus of the Denali Commission be in rural Alaska?

Comment: Set-up incremental funding for the projects that can be completed in a span of years, if the project will allow. Communities need the Denali Commission to continue on a broader funding basis for more projects to be completed. We need jobs and other opportunities. Follow-up on community projects until the project is complete. Work and fund directly with the Federally Recognized Tribes and not on a regional nonprofit or an off-spring of a tribe. Utilize the distressed communities list and fund those communities that are truly distressed to turn them into a success story. Establish grassroots or home based business(s) to establish a healthy monetary system. Training to build capacity for the boards, councils, staff and community members that want to improve in their community. Set-up sample plans (strategic, business) for each aspect for running a business and community and their facilities.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Walter

--  
Walter Jack, Tribal GAP Coordinator  
Angoon Community Association  
P.O. Box 328  
Angoon, Alaska 99820

C (907) 952-8226

W (907) 788-3411 ext 30

F (907) 788-3404

CONFIDENTIAL

## Monica Armstrong

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**From:** Gay Wellman [GWellman@alzalaska.org]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 23, 2011 4:30 PM  
**To:** Denali Commission  
**Subject:** public input

1. The Denali Commission has provided support for multiple, needed projects in rural Alaska that would not have happened without that support.
2. More opportunity for local consultation about the need for certain projects. More in person meetings held in the local where the project is focused.
3. There is an increasing need for assisted or alternative living situations for elders and others with disabilities in the local, rural areas. At this point anyone who requires assistance to remain in their home or home community for a variety of reasons usually has to be sent into one of the larger communities such as Anchorage, Fairbanks or Juneau. Most of the hub communities don't even have such facilities. Two of the stumbling blocks to such facilities are the lack of appropriate housing and the lack of trained staff for these assisted living places. The first could be corrected if there were either grants or low income loans for those wanting to either renovate or build. The second one could be corrected if there were funds provided for scholarships to attend PCA or CNA classes in local areas.

Gay Wellman  
Education Specialist  
Alzheimer's Resource Agency of Alaska  
HC 60 Box 227, Copper Center, AK 99573  
1-800-478-1080 opt. 6  
1-907-822-5620

## Monica Armstrong

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**From:** william miller [ak\_rumrunner@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, January 21, 2011 8:33 AM  
**To:** Denali Commission  
**Subject:** Comments on Denali Commission

In reference to your recent request for public comment, the following is being submitted from the Dot Lake Village Council, governing body for the Village of Dot Lake, a federally recognized Alaskan Native Tribe:

Topic 1: We feel that the Denali Commission has contributed greatly to the improvement of our rural health and sanitation conditions. Without the commission, we would have many more communities still living in third world conditions here in Alaska.

Topic 2: We feel that the "COOKIE CUTTER" approach that has been taken in the past should be addressed. One size does not fit all, for example the small village clinic design used is much too large for a number of small villages and would not be able to be maintained. More consultation with small tribes and communities should take place and attempts made to meet the needs and requirements of small villages and communities. In a lot of cases, renovation of present facilities would be a better solution.

Topic 3: We feel that there should be better small tribe and community representation on the Denali Commission. WERE ARE RURAL COMMUNITIES AND TRIBES REPRESENTED? AFN is a corporation of Alaskan Native Corporations not Tribes or small communities. We feel the Commission should work more one-on-one with small Tribes and communities.

If you have questions, please contact me at the above E-mail, by phone at 907-882-2695 (office) 907-322-2694 (cell) or maile at Box 2279 Dot Lake AK, 99737.

William (Bill) Miller  
President, Dot Lake Village Council

## **Karen Johnson**

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**From:** william miller [ak\_rumrunner@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 24, 2011 11:42 AM  
**To:** Denali Commission  
**Subject:** Denali Commission 2010 Annual Report & Request for Public Input

The Dot Lake Village Council would like to submit the following comments on your report and scheduled listening sessions:

1. The Denali Commission is very important to rural Alaska, because it has been the major player in the development of acceptable rural sanitation projects. These projects have greatly improved the health and welfare of many rural Alaskans.
2. We would like to make the following recommendations as to the manner in which the Denali Commission does business:
  - a. First of all the "Cookie Cutter" approach does not work in rural Alaska. For example, we had attempted to make minor renovations to our small clinic. The Commission's answer was to built, what they referred to as "a small clinic". We would not be able to maintain such a facility, and did not need all the area and operational cost it would require. You should listen more to local input and work more closely with individual Tribes and communities.
  - b. We feel that. in the past. you have depended to much on input from organizations that do not actually represent rural Alaskan Native Tribes, but represent large Native organizations. We are very happy that you have scheduled a Listening Session for the Tanana Chief's Annual Convention. We hope there will be an opportunity to address issues and not just have to sit and listen.
3. In the future, we would like to see more interaction with small groups of rural Natives and residents, and less large meetings with large organizations, when we can not even have input.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and PLEASE acknowledge receipt of this input.

William Miller  
President  
Dot Lake Village Council  
Village of Dot Lake Alaska



Denali Commission  
510 L Street, Suite 410  
Anchorage, AK 99501

907.271.1414 tel  
907.271.1415 fax  
888.480.4321 toll free  
www.denali.gov

MAR 14 2011

## Role of the Denali Commission Request for Public Comment

The Denali Commission is seeking public input and comment on the role of the Commission in the delivery of Federal services, projects and programs to rural Alaska.

We anticipate that public input will come in two forms: written and in-person. The Commission will schedule listening sessions around Alaska between now and April 8, 2011. We will be accepting written comments until April 15, 2011. Written comments can be provided at the address provided in the "header" above, or via fax at the fax number provided above, or via e-mail to: [communications@denali.gov](mailto:communications@denali.gov). Questions can be addressed to either Ms. Karen Johnson (271-3036) or Ms. Monica Armstrong (271-1414).

In just over 10 years, the Denali Commission has leveraged over \$1 billion of federal and other funds to support energy, transportation, health care, education, housing and training in rural Alaska, while the State of Alaska has invested over \$2 billion in infrastructure development in the Denali Commission program areas. Further information about the Commission's work and our current funding climate can be found in the Commission's 2010 annual report which is posted on the Commission's website.

The Denali Commission would like to hear from Alaskans on the following three topics:

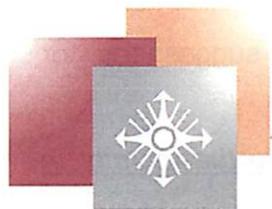
1. Why is the Denali Commission important to rural Alaska? *Fundra knows the needs of state of alaska communities and are dependent*
2. What recommendations would you make as to the manner in which the Denali Commission does business? *continue as is*
3. What should the future role / focus of the Denali Commission be in rural Alaska? *continue to work with gov to give rural communities*

The Denali Commission illustrates how the federal and state government, working together, can assist the most remote of Alaskan citizens to help themselves move closer to economic self-sufficiency, while preserving values and improving their health and quality of life. The Denali Commission is committed to meeting the White House rural policy of developing place-based solutions towards this effort.

As in the last decade, we value local participation in designing and sustaining vital, rural communities. We hope that you will take the time to guide us on these three very important questions so that the Commission can strategically plan with rural Alaskans for the next ten years.

Joel Neimeyer, Federal Co-Chair  
Karen Rehfeld, State Co-Chair

Vince Beltrami, AFL-CIO, Commissioner  
Loretta Bullard, Alaska Federal of Natives, Commissioner  
Pat Gamble, University of Alaska, Commissioner  
John MacKinnon, Association of General Contractors, Commissioner  
Kathie Wasserman, Alaska Municipal League, Commissioner



## Association of Alaska Housing Authorities

Tlingit-Haida Regional Housing Authority  
PO Box 32237  
Juneau, Ak 99803-2234  
907-780-6868

Interior Regional Housing Authority  
828 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Fairbanks, Ak 99701-6918  
907-452-8315

North Pacific Rim Housing Authority  
8300 King Street  
Anchorage, Ak 99518  
907-562-1444

Cook Inlet Housing Authority  
3510 Spenard Rd, Suite 201  
Anchorage, Ak 99503-2745  
907-276-8822

Aleutian Housing Authority  
4000 Old Seward Hwy, Suite 202  
Anchorage, Ak 99503  
907-563-2146

Tagiugmiullu Nunamiullu Housing Authority  
PO Box 409  
Barrow, Ak 99723  
907-852-7150

Bristol Bay Housing Authority  
PO Box 50  
Dillingham, Ak 99576-0050  
907-842-5956

Copper River Basin Regional Housing Authority  
PO Box 89  
Glennallen, Ak 99588  
907-822-3633

AVCP Regional Housing Authority  
PO Box 767  
Bethel, Ak 99559-0767  
907-543-3121

Baranof Island Housing Authority  
PO Box 517  
Sitka, Ak 99835-0517  
907-747-5088

Bering Straits Regional Housing Authority  
PO Box 995  
Nome, Ak 99762-0995  
907-443-5256

Alaska Housing Finance Corporation  
4300 Boniface Parkway  
Anchorage, Ak 99504  
907-338-6100

Kodiak Island Housing Authority  
3137 Mill Bay Rd  
Kodiak, AK 99615-7032  
907-486-8111

Northwest Inupiat Housing Authority  
PO Box 331  
Kotzebue, Ak 99752-0331  
907-442-3450

Ketchikan Indian Community  
2960 Tongass Avenue  
Ketchikan, Alaska 99901

April 22, 2011

Mr. Joel Neimeyer, Federal Co-Chair  
Ms. Karen Rehfeld, State Co-Chair  
and Commissioners  
The Denali Commission  
510 'L' St., Suite 310  
Anchorage, AK 99501

Dear Joel, Karen and Commissioners:

The Association of Alaska Housing Authorities (AAHA), whose members includes fourteen regional housing authorities and the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation, are pleased to provide you with our recommendations on the future role of the Commission in the delivery of Federal services, projects and programs to rural Alaska. We will respond to the three questions provided by the commission:

1. *Why is the Denali Commission important to rural Alaska?*

With the administration of over \$1 billion dollars in infrastructure, housing, health care, education, training and economic development projects, the Denali Commission has had a significantly positive impact on the health and wellbeing of rural residents and the viability of rural communities. The Commission has looked broadly at the needs of remote communities and developed programs with a focus on empowering rural residents and sustaining rural Alaska. The Commission has provided programs that were not available through any other agency.

The Commission's role as a coordinator and facilitator has been especially appreciated. The federal agency Sustainable Rural

Communities Report (2010) provides excellent suggestions for removing barriers to community development.

2. What recommendations would you make as to the manner in which the Denali Commission does business?

The regional housing authorities are appreciative of the Commission's coordination role and streamlined manner of conducting business. One housing authority CEO commented, "they cut through the red tape."

3. What should the future role/focus of the Denali Commission be in rural Alaska?

➤ Coordination

AAHA supports the Commission's continuing role in improving coordination and governmental effectiveness in the state. We are specifically interested in the Commission taking a lead in improving coordination between state, federal and other entities in the development of housing and associated infrastructure.

We recommend that the Commission serve a role in determining how rules and regulations can be changed so that multiple grants can be used in a project.

The Commission could also be the recipient of funds and distribute the funds in a streamlined and expeditious manner.

We support the Commission overseeing the implementation of recommendations in the Sustainable Rural Communities report and ensuring that the recommendations are implemented.

➤ Training

The Commission's training program has provided skills training for quality jobs that are available in rural communities. They have also tied their program development to job training for rural residents. The Commission's training component has been a critical piece

of increasing job opportunities in rural Alaska. It is important that the training program continue to operate.

➤ Education on the Needs of Rural Alaska

We recommend that the Commission assume a role of educating Congress and others on the particular needs of rural Alaska, including the continuing unmet need for clean water systems and sanitation in Alaska's rural communities and the need for other types of infrastructure. Alaska's regional housing authorities would gladly assist in this education process.

➤ Additional Rural Representation on the Denali Commission

AAHA requests that 1-2 additional individuals be appointed as rural community representatives on the Denali Commission so that the commission is more broadly represented by rural residents.

The Association of Alaska Housing Authorities appreciates the opportunity to comment on the future of this valuable organization.

Thank you for the Commission's significant accomplishments. We look forward to working in partnership with the Commission in the years ahead.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Duame", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dan Duame  
Board President  
Association of Alaska Housing Authorities



April 13, 2011

Denali Commission  
510 L Street  
Suite 410  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Dear Co-Chair Neimeyer,

As members of an ad-hoc Federal Issues Committee within the Alaska Municipal League, we would like to thank you for the opportunity to comment on "Role of the Denali Commission." As you may remember, the Alaska Municipal League identified the re-authorization of the Commission as one of our top federal priorities for this fiscal year.

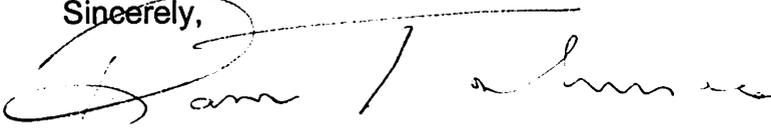
Most rural municipalities across the State have realized benefits from the Denali Commission in areas from bulk fuel to health clinics, to housing, to training, to economic development. The Denali Commission, as realized by Senator Stevens, has done much to improve the infrastructure of rural Alaska. We feel it is of utmost importance to preserve the Commission in order to allow rural improvements to continue.

We have become concerned with the changes within the Commission. The Alaska Municipal League, from the beginning of the Commission, had a voice and strong partnership with the Commission. The voice has certainly been silenced; the partnership is tenuous. In answer to your questions:

1. Why is the Denali Commission important to rural Alaska? Alaska needs much work in infrastructure and the original intent of the commission is to provide funding for that infrastructure with decisions made by people that actually live here and work with and in rural Alaska.
2. What recommendations would you make as to the manner in which the Denali Commission does business? We see and hear very little from the Commission. We would like the Commission to make more of an effort to connect with rural Alaska in order to keep us informed about programs, funding, new policies, etc.
3. What should the future role/focus of the Denali Commission be in rural Alaska? Exactly what Senator Stevens intended for it to be; a funding source for rural Alaskan infrastructure.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to comment and we wish you the very best in your re-authorization work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dave Talerico". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Mayor Dave Talerico, Denali Borough

Mayor Albert Howard, City of Angoon

Tim Beck, Assemblyman, Fairbanks North Star Borough

Ron Jones, Councilman, City of North Pole

Jack Shay, Councilman, City of Ketchikan



# NORTON SOUND HEALTH CORPORATION

P.O. BOX 966  
NOME, ALASKA 99762  
(907) 443-3311

*Office of the President*

April 5, 2011

Joel Neimeyer, Federal Co-Chair  
Denali Commission  
510 L Street, Suite 410  
Anchorage, AK 99501

Dear Mr. Neimeyer,

Thank you for taking the time to hear from our great state regarding the role of the Denali Commission. Norton Sound Health Corporation and the villages it represents have benefited significantly because of the work the Commission has done over the years. We have had planning, design and construction funds allocated to our communities to for many health clinic projects in our region. Over the years our region has received over \$31 Million to help our communities by having appropriate buildings to receive their healthcare services. Although I'm able to put a dollar figure to the impact to our communities, what is harder to articulate is what it really means for our people. Many of our older facilities did not have running water, were not functional in emergencies and were not adequate to ensure confidentiality of the patients. Where we have new facilities, our providers are happy to work in our communities and the people in our communities feel proud of what they have been able to accomplish with your help.

The Denali Commission took on a role that was very much needed in the State of Alaska, especially in rural Alaska. It has built infrastructure where there was none. It has brought increased quality of life for the State's citizens. And although it has been able to accomplish so much, the work is still not done. In the Bering Straits Region alone, there is still a need to build more clinics. The villages of Gambell, Savoonga, Shishmaref, Little Diomed and Shaktoolik are still in need of new health care facilities. Wales, which recently had a new clinic built, is already in need of a renovation. These projects are vital to providing quality healthcare in our communities.

Although the Denali Commission has been able to accomplish so much, there is still a need for the commission, regardless of the fact that funding for health facilities and other programs are limited or no longer available. Where the Commission still has funds for its current programs, the Commission should continue to help Rural Alaska by continuing to partner with communities and funders to keep building the infrastructure of Rural Alaska. In areas where funding for programs is limited or gone, the Denali Commission is well known as a partner to other funding agencies and is in a great position to assist communities in achieving their goals. It would be beneficial for the Denali Commission to act as a liaison to communities looking for funding for projects.

We are also of the opinion that Denali Commission should review its leadership structure and consider adding another Rural Representative because Rural Representatives fully understand the needs of our rural communities. This understanding helps them in their ability to make crucial decisions that affect our needs.

Norton Sound Health Corporation is very grateful that the Denali Commission has taken the time to hear from the organizations it helps. We look forward to hearing about the future of the Commission and continuing our relationship.

Sincerely,



Carol J. Piscoya

President/CEO





# NORTON SOUND HEALTH CORPORATION

P.O. BOX 966  
NOME, ALASKA 99762  
(907) 443-3311

April 22, 2011

Joel Neimeyer, Federal Co-Chair  
Denali Commission  
510 L Street, Suite 410  
Anchorage, AK 99501

Dear Mr. Neimeyer,

Thank you for the time to have your staff come to Nome and host a listening session on the future of the Denali Commission. The session was a great opportunity for the Denali Commission to hear from the Bering Straits Region. I would like to follow up from my letter sent to you dated April 4, 2011 about the future of the Commission and share my comments from Wednesday's session to answer the questions posed by staff.

I would like to thank and applaud and thank the Denali Commission for providing the region with 31 Million dollars for much needed healthcare infrastructure and projects. Most recently through partnership with Northwest Campus, UAA and UAF, Kawerek Inc and Denali Commission funds, we have been able to implement a Nursing Degree program here in Nome. NSHC will be able to hire those new nurses in our new hospital facility. We would also like to thank the Denali Commission for your assistance with the transition funding for the new hospital facility. We would like for the Commission to please continue to advocate for and fund new infrastructure. The Bering Straits Region is still in need of healthcare infrastructure funds. In our region we have five communities that are still in need of new healthcare facilities. We also have one community in need of a renovation to their existing facility. NSHC is also very happy to see the many other projects that are funded in the region including transportation projects, water/sewer projects, power system upgrades, bulk fuel storage and other projects.

Although the Denali Commission has done so much work for the rural areas, there is still a need for more advocacy and funding for rural communities needs. It would be great to see more of a presence in the regions. A great way to hear from the rural areas is for Denali Commission to host their board meetings in rural Alaska to receive input from rural regional organizations, communities and people. As our region faces the loss of Denali Commission funds to assist us with obtaining basic needs in our villages, our organization's Patient First priority is greatly affected. Communities who have a lack of water/sewer, adequate healthcare facilities and other infrastructure are at higher risk for health issues. In those villages without basic needs met, those communities have increased and higher medical needs.

As recommended by Kawerak's comments, NSHC agrees with the need for Denali Commission to develop goals, visions and set priorities for our rural community's basic needs. However, I would like to add to that recommendation. I think there is value to the Denali Commission holding more board meetings in rural Alaska so that more organizations have the opportunity to provide input/comment

to address our needs. I would also like to recommend that the Denali Commission increase rural representation on the Denali Commission board. This would be valuable as rural voice will share their experience and provide a more focused perspective representing our needs

Again, my thanks to you and your staff for taking the time to hear the rural perspective when planning for the future of the Denali Commission. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (907)443-3206.

Sincerely,



Carol J. Piscopa  
President/CEO



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Anchorage, AK 99501  
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1(866) 457-2597 toll free

April 15, 2011

To: Denali Commission  
From: Alaska Works Partnership

Public Comment Request: Role of the Denali Commission

Dear Members of the Denali Commission.

The Denali Commission has provided infrastructure and the means for rural Alaskans to become employed, work and live in their own communities. One of the three main purposes of the Denali Commission is to provide job training so that rural Alaskans have the skills to work locally on jobs and infrastructure projects essential to the life of their villages. The Denali Commission, in partnership with Alaska Works Partnership, serving as a "legacy training partner" has delivered training that has led to more than 3,000 rural workers gaining employment over the past decade.

I would like to provide a snapshot of just some of the training and employment Denali resources have help facilitate in the past couple of years. AWP provides weatherization training to make homes more energy efficient and reduce owner costs for energy. Training is done in conjunction with Alaska's lead public housing agency, the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation. AWP recently did an outcome analysis of more than 700 participants trained through the Denali, AHFC rural construction and weatherization training initiative. Persons were trained during the period of May 2009 through July 2010. Employment and earnings data provided by the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development – Research and Analysis office shows that employment exceeded eighty 80% during the project and almost 75% were retained in their positions for over a year. This grouped earned more than \$1 million in wages within their first three months after training as compared with their three months of earnings before. Second year earnings increased by over \$2 million over their annual earnings before training.

Not only were these Denali trained workers employed and earning paychecks, they were able to work where they live, keep their earnings in the community, but significantly reducing energy consumption and increasing energy savings for hundreds of customers. Persons living in these communities bear the highest energy costs in the Nation. Over the time frame of this analysis AWP served persons residing in 115 rural and remote communities.

For the past decade, the Denali Commission – Denali Training Fund has also paid the majority of costs for training Building Maintenance & Repairer (BMR) apprentices along a career path toward achieving journeyman status. BMR technicians have the skills to build, maintain, and repair public buildings and affordable housing in rural Alaska. They help maintain most of Alaska’s Native Housing stock, more than 6,000 homes spread across rural Alaska. The Denali Training Fund covers the cost for recruitment, instruction and support services of BMR apprentices in training. In the past 11 years, Denali trained BMRs have built more than 700 new homes in rural communities and have repaired and weatherized thousands more. The primary employers are the Associated Village Council Presidents RHA, Bristol Bay RHA, Cook Inlet Housing, the North Slope Borough

Please take a moment to read the attached success stories that reflect the achievements of training funded by the Denali Commission. These stories put a face to the impressive statistics that prove the value of the Denali Commission’s important work in rural Alaska.

Unfortunately, the Denali Commission no longer receives federal money for job training to support these important job training programs. Alaska Works Partnership has been able to show Denali support and leverage other available state training dollars to continue these programs; Apprentice Outreach, BMR Training, and residential weatherization. Without the Denali Commission’s investment in our programs we would be unable to generate those matching funds that share the burden for meeting training demands in rural Alaska. In PY 2011, AWP was able to raise a 1:1 dollar match for Denali’s investment, which resulted in providing services to more than 300 rural Alaskans entering training and a career pathway.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments to the Denali Commission in support of training and employment that accompanies rural infrastructure investments and needs, and for the Denali Training Fund that provides an avenue for those resources.

Sincerely,



Mike Andrews  
Executive Director

Att: Weatherization Training Outcome  
Weatherization Map  
Success Story: JoLea Labs  
Success Story: Sam Paul  
Success Story: Joseph Hunt

Raymond Watson, Chairperson  
Myron P. Naneng Sr., President  
Phone (907) 543-7300  
Fax (907) 543-3369

**AVCP**  
Association of Village Council Presidents  
Administration  
Pouch 219, Bethel, AK 99559



Akiachak  
Akiak  
Alakanuk  
Andreafsky  
Aniak  
Atmaultuak  
Bethel  
Bill Moore's Sl.  
Chefornak  
Chevak  
Chuathbaluk  
Chuloonawick  
Crooked Creek  
Eek  
Emmonak  
Georgetown  
Goodnews Bay  
Hamilton  
Hooper Bay  
Lower Kalskag  
Upper Kalskag  
Kasigluk  
Kipnuk  
Kongiganak  
Kotlik  
Kwethluk  
Kwigillingok  
Lime Village  
Marshall  
Mekoryuk  
Mtn. Village  
Napaimiut  
Napakiak  
Napaskiak  
Newtok  
Nightmute  
Nunakauyak  
Nunam Iqua  
Nunapitchuk  
Ohogamiut  
Oscarville  
Paimiut  
Pilot Station  
Pitka's Point  
Platinum  
Quinhagak  
Red Devil  
Russian Mission  
Scammon Bay  
Sleetmute  
St. Mary's  
Stony River  
Tuluksak  
Tuntutuliak  
Tununak  
Umkumiut

March 11, 2011

Joel Neimeyer, Federal Co-Chair  
Karen Rehfeld, State Co-Chair  
Denali Commission  
510 L Street, Suite 410  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Subject: Listening Session: Role of Denali Commission  
Yupiiit Piciryarait Cultural Center; Bethel, Alaska  
March 8, 2011

Dear Sir and Madam;

First, we would like to recognize and thank the late Senator Ted Stevens for his role in focusing national attention on the immense infrastructure and economic challenges faced by rural Alaskan communities when he authored the Denali Commission Act which became law in 1998.

We would like to thank the Denali Commission for holding a public hearing here in Bethel at the Association of Village Council Presidents Regional Housing Authority Annual Convention held March 8-10, 2011 in Bethel. The Convention was well attended and the opportunity for input regarding the future role of the Denali Commission was critical to the well being of the communities in the region.

AVCP would like to support the recommendations made by the Tribal Governments at the hearing

1. Denali Commissions Critical Role to Rural Alaska was Acknowledged and Support for continued funding needs to be secured so as the unmet need it the region is addressed

The Denali Commission has put into the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta Region of Alaska \$140M in Energy, \$42 M in Health, \$25M in Transportation and \$3M in Training. A participant at the convention stated, "Your [Denali Commission's] work is not done yet in our region." There continues to be a need for interagency streamlining so that projects are considered holistically – for example when we build homes in a village we need water/sewer, electricity, and roads. These "pots of funds" should be packaged for ease of access for developments.

2. Denali Board of Commissioners be expanded to include rural residents.

Another participant at the convention spoke about the how well the Denali Commission "involves the recipients and those that bring services to Rural Alaska"

and made a strong recommendation that the Denali Commission take that next step and appoint Rural Alaska residents as Commissioners. AVCP supports this recommendation and offers our assistance in this process.

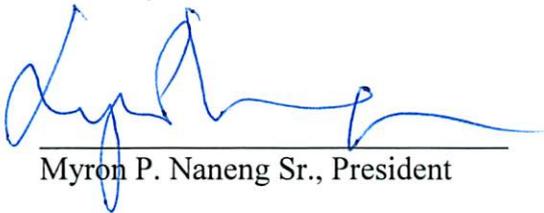
3. Denali Commission's Scope of Work expanded.

Currently, the Denali Commission's Scope of Work includes Energy, Health Facilities, Transportation, Training and Government Coordination. One of the participants at the convention stated that "the beauty of the Denali Commission is that it reaches out to partners." The Denali Commission is also positioned to provide outreach opportunities that they could best serve Rural Alaska. To this end, we continue to encourage the Denali Commission to serve Rural Alaska and think about expanding in the area of providing funds for additional and expanded planning, capital projects, and training.

The Denali Commission illustrates how the federal and state government, working together, can assist the most remote of Alaskan citizens to help themselves move closer to economic self-sufficiency, while preserving values and improving their health and quality of life. The Association of Village Council Presidents supports the critical role of the Denali Commission and would like to see that role fully secured; supports the move to include rural residents as Commissioners of the Denali Commission; and supports the idea to expand the Denali Commission's Scope of Work for the betterment of rural communities.

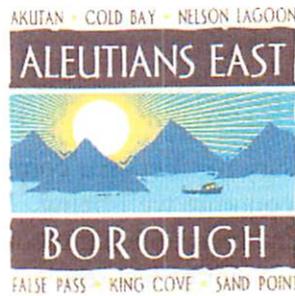
Again, thank you for holding a Listening Session on the Role of the Denali Commission here in Bethel.

Sincerely,



Myron P. Naneng Sr., President

Cc: File



April 4, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

The Aleutians East Borough (AEB) is an absolute advocate of the Denali Commission (DC). We believe that the Denali Commission has played a timely and integral role in the growth and development of Alaska, especially in rural communities, by providing funding for critical utilities, infrastructure, and economic support. Without this funding, numerous communities would lack necessary infrastructure that improves not only the local and statewide economy but the survival of very small and remote villages and the well-being of rural Alaskan citizens.

Our Borough includes the Cities of Akutan, Cold Bay, False Pass, King Cove, and Sand Point and the Native Village of Nelson Lagoon. These communities have benefited greatly from Commission funds. In our Borough, DC funds have been used for many projects. A few projects include:

- Akutan Airport Access Project
- Akutan Electrical Distribution Project
- Akutan Port/Ferry Dock Improvements
- Cold Bay Clinic Repairs
- Cold Bay Community Center
- Cold Bay Landfill
- False Pass Harbor
- False Pass Landfill
- King Cove Boat Harbor
- King Cove Clinic
- King Cove New Powerhouse
- King Cove Streets Project
- Nelson Lagoon Bulk Fuel Storage
- Sand Point Clinic-New Construction
- Sand Point Road Improvements

Recently, the AEB and City of Akutan have been awarded FY11 Road & Waterfront funding for the False Pass Harbor Utility Project and the Akutan City Dock Improvements Design. If DC funds were not available these projects would put a huge financial burden on the AEB and the individual communities with the strong possibility of the projects not being started or completed.

The DC is staffed with true professionals. They are always available to answer questions and to work with us in a problem-solving mode. We are impressed with the website and reports coming from Commission staff.

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In short, Commission funding is necessary for the AEB communities to improve their waterfronts, roads, health, safety and economic well-being. The DC fills the funding component that allows small municipalities like ours to complete projects that are difficult to find funding for elsewhere. In essence they are "the funder of last resort." Without the DC these communities would not be where they are today. The AEB hopes that that the DC will be present for future projects and continues to focus on providing critical utilities, infrastructure, and economic support throughout Alaska.

Sincerely,



Stanley Mack  
Mayor

CC: Joel Neimeyer, Denali Commission



Old Harbor Tribal Council  
P.O. Box 62, Old Harbor, Alaska 99542  
Phone: (907) 286-2215 Fax: (907) 286-2277



City of Old Harbor  
P.O. Box 109  
Old Harbor, Alaska  
99543  
Phone: 286-2233 OR 286-2254  
Fax: (907) 286-2278  
City of Three Saints



March 31, 2011

Denali Commission  
510 L Street, Suite 410  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Re: Denali Commission's Role in Rural Alaska

To Whom It May Concern:

The village of Old Harbor, a coastal community on Kodiak Island, relies on the natural resources of the surrounding sea and upland environment for its livelihood. Old Harbor is located on the southeast coast of Kodiak Island, 70 miles southwest of the City of Kodiak and 322 miles southwest of Anchorage and is only accessible by air or water. Old Harbor faces many challenges such as high cost of living, high unemployment and a low economic base. In fact, today the federally mandated Denali Commission has designated Old Harbor as a distressed community. Nevertheless, we are a community of survivors, and by working together in unity with our visions and goals we are determined to survive and prosper into the future. To provide meaningful, long term change, there is a strong conviction that services must be community based and motivated.

With this conviction in mind, Old Harbor developed a Community Plan that has guided us over the past 5 years towards improving its economy and well-being. We have been working diligently on a multi-pronged economic development effort which the Denali Commission has directly supported by providing funds to complete many projects. Without the support of the Denali Commission many of these projects would not have been possible due to funding deficiencies.

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With the collaboration of our community organizations, the Denali Commission and the State of Alaska we have been able to successfully complete many vital community projects such as the Behavior Health Center, Small Boat Harbor, Fuel Storage Tanks, and the Health Care Center. In addition, we are scheduled to begin construction of the new City Dock in May 2011. All of these critical infrastructure projects would not be possible without the support of the Denali Commission.

The Denali Commission is instrumental in providing federal support for infrastructure projects and programs that have assisted our community to become an overall safer and healthier environment for our residents. Your continued support for our community is very significant and we cannot express our gratitude your assistance. The construction of new facilities is absolutely vital to our community's continued existence and will encourage growth and economic opportunities.

If you have any questions regarding our support, please do not hesitate to contact Cynthia Berns-Lopez at 907.278.6100 or [cberns@oldharbor.org](mailto:cberns@oldharbor.org).

Quyanaa!

Sincerely yours,



Carl H. Marrs  
Chief Executive Officer  
Old Harbor Native Corporation



Conrad Peterson  
President  
Old Harbor Tribal Council



Rick Berns  
City Mayor  
City of Old Harbor