

Debra Thompson

From: Rebecca Knight <bknight15@icloud.com>
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2020 8:17 PM
To: Assembly
Subject: Testimony of B. Knight_Pbg. Bor. Asmbly_17August20
Attachments: Knight_Testimony Pbg. Bor. Ass. _17Aug20.pdf

Hello Mayor and Assembly Members,

Attached is my written testimony for tonight's assembly meeting.

In that testimony, I requested that:

- an apology be issued to the "testifier" [Dave Beebe] of the July 20 Assembly meeting who was interrupted during his testimony and told erroneous information that his testimony was not related to the agenda and;
- that the official record be corrected concerning the verifiable absence of the "radio" news department during the meeting of July 7 with US Rep. Don Young and State Senator Bert Stedman.

For your information, I did not consult with Mr. Beebe concerning my request that he be issued an apology. Simply stated, all publics must be treated with respect and free from intimidation during your proceedings, no matter their position on an issue.

I look forward to your attention to my reasonable requests.

Thank you,

Becky Knight

**Testimony of Becky Knight
for the Petersburg, Alaska Borough Assembly Meeting
August 17, 2020**

My name is Becky Knight and my comments regard the Mayor's Report-an agenda item.

Under the July 20 Mayor's Report for the high level July 7 meeting, with Rep. Don Young and Senator Bert Stedman, it was mentioned that Petersburg's "wants and needs" were discussed—but there was no official recording made nor was the public notified of the meeting to hear exactly how our community's wants and needs were portrayed. This, despite as I understand, adequate advance warning of the visit. When there is no official recording made of our public meetings or the public is barred from attendance, then what was discussed is unknown and/or becomes clouded and memories fade.

For instance, in an attempt to recap what was discussed during the meeting, Mayor Jensen summarized, from the 30,000 ft. level, that Young talked about the "potential for resource extraction issues, mining, minerals, logging, transportation, and hydro development." There were NO specifics disclosed on these vitally important discussion issues. Regarding the discussion on child care, the Mayor went on to say in reference to Rep. Young, "I can't remember exactly his answer." The Mayor instead deferred to the two assembly members who were in attendance on July 7 to provide their "take" on the discussion. The point is that personal recounts are an insufficient, official record of the high level meeting proceedings-especially during a time when there exists plenty of electronic capability to document such events.

Moreover, according to the KFSK news department, there was NO local radio presence at the meeting contrary to the Mayor's July 20 claim. I am also deeply troubled that a member of the public, who had just begun his testimony for an item related to the July 20 agenda, concerning the Mayor's Report, was wrongly told that the Mayor's Report was not an agenda item. This had the successful effect of chilling his public testimony and certainly stymied the message the testifier had to convey. In my opinion the testifier is owed an apology and the record should be corrected that there was NO radio presence during the meeting. Can you please fulfill these two reasonable requests?

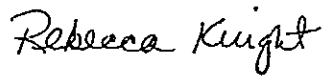
Young's and Stedman's July 7 visit to Petersburg, directly coincided during a time when the Kake Access Project, locally known as the "\$40 million Road to Nowhere" has raised the ire of a broad spectrum of local residents. Many questions remain to be answered, especially how an original forty million dollar appropriation went from 22 miles of new road construction to connect Kake and Petersburg, which is now reduced to 5 miles and only goes to Twelve Mile Creek-all for the same price tag.

Only the day before their visit was the end of the comment period for the DOT/Army Corps of Engineers permit application for the project, where among other things, 118 local residents asked for a public hearing on the road. The Corps also received numerous public comments from other regional citizens as well as in-depth comments from Earthjustice.

I believe these two officials, Don Young and Bert Stedman-the principal architects of this unpopular project, were intent on avoiding the hard questions local residents should have had an opportunity to ask. Instead, they slid out of town, largely undetected except perhaps for some evening fundraising opportunities and then retreated to their legislative bunkers.

We elect our government representatives— not contingent on their skill at cleaver legislative maneuvering to trick the public, but instead contingent on how well we think we will be collectively represented. In this case there was a complete breakdown of such ability by our elected representatives.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rebecca Knight". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid, with a prominent loop on the 'K' and a trailing flourish on the 't'.

Becky (Rebecca) Knight