

March 2, 2011

Dear Madam Mayor, Haines Borough Assembly Members, and Manager Earnest:

I am again writing to urge you to vote against the adoption of Ordinance 10-10-243. I know the Borough Assembly and the entire Haines community is sick and tired of revisiting this issue and would like to avoid further controversy. However, moving forward in a haphazard manner as proposed in this ordinance will lead to negative impacts on the quality of life for Haines citizens, wildlife in the area, and propose major safety issues for the heliski industry.

This is a crucial point in negotiations; you have the power to act wisely and choose to follow the Ordinance 9-12-220 until changes based on facts and scientifically gathered data can be made by a working group that is truly representative of the Haines community.

1. Changes proposed in the Ordinance 10-10-243 are based almost exclusively on past actions of the heliski industry and some of these actions were out of compliance with previous permits. Examples include:

- changes in the map were made after discussions with only the Heliski Working Group Chair and Working Group members directly involved in the heliski area. The map recommendations in Ordinance 10-10-243 are based on areas utilized by the heliski industry in the past (some outside the boundaries of a previous permit)
- skier days were added by a formula created by the Heliski Working Group Chair and Borough Manager based on previous skier/photographer days utilized in the past
- the right to transfer skier days, as well as the other issues listed above, were not agreed upon by Working Group members outside the heliski industry...

Please see letters written by the Heliski Working Group for the 2/22/11 Borough Assembly meeting.

2. At the February 22, 2011 Borough Assembly meeting, the great majority of Haines residents who spoke against the adoption of Ordinance 10-10-243 actually live in Haines, support the community (most are volunteers at the library, radio station, hospice, etc.), pay taxes, and patronize local businesses. These Haines residents were not speaking against the heliski industry but rather, requesting that further data be gathered before slipshod changes are made to its management. Local voices were heard by only two Borough Assembly members. I was shocked by the realization that four of our Borough Assembly members, as representatives of our community, would value the opinions of those who are here for only a few months above the opinion of long-term residents.

3. According to Ordinance 10-10-243, the heliski season would run from February 1 to May 3 giving the heliski industry a total of 92 or 93 days (depending on leap year) to attract clients to Haines. Since the ordinance allows for 2600 skier days, there can be up to approximately 28

(28.18 to be exact) heliski clients served each day in the Haines Borough (2600 divided by 92.25).

From what I understand, generally the type of helicopters that are used to transport clients from heliports to the slopes can hold a pilot, one guide, and three passengers.

If skier days are apportioned to the three existing companies in the same way they have been in the past, of the total 28 daily skiers, Alaska Heliskiing would serve approximately 16, SEABA 10, and AMG 2 daily (rounding to the nearest whole number). Assuming there are 3 clients in each helicopter, AK Heliskiing would then have 5.33 groups of skiers daily, SEABA 3.33, and AMG 1. If each group skis an average of 6 runs (and they often ski more!), there would be a total of approximately 58 helicopter flights a day!

We all know that weather in the Haines area makes it impossible for helicopters to fly each and every day of the heliski season, so on some days, the number would be greater than 58!

How can this high level of helicopter traffic not affect our quality of life, endanger wildlife, and increase the risk of danger inherent to the heliski industry? Are you comfortable allowing this to happen?

4. Offering heliski companies the right to transfer or sell permits will only increase the risk of danger and other negative impacts as listed in #3.

5. It is inconceivable that Borough Assemblyman Jerry Lapp is allowed to vote on this ordinance since his business receives direct economic gain from the heliski industry. Alaska Heliskiing's website quotes: *Just next door is the infamous 33 Mile Roadhouse, serving breakfast, lunch and dinner.*

I implore you to think about this issue carefully. It is not too late to change your mind. I believe the only rational action is to exclude Assemblyman Jerry Lapp as a voting member on this ordinance and to vote NO on the adoption of Ordinance 10-10-243.

Sincerely,

Kristin E. Hathhorn

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Mayor Jan Hill + Borough Assembly, 03 March '11

Please do not pass the heli-ski ordinance you have before you with 2600 skier days. Doing so amounts to the heli-ski companies self-regulating. That is not what the residents of ~~the~~ Haver voted for. We voted for regulation by you, the Borough Assembly, to limit the impact of this industry. Limiting skier days to the last ordinance of 1200 and amending the map (see submitted petition that I ^{was} ^{off} ^{signed}) still gives businesses winter income. I understand + appreciate the time + effort that has gone into this round of negotiations. By limiting skier days, you are not diminishing progress; instead, you are accomplishing your objective of compromise + consensus. You are supporting the economy of the heli-ski industry, the community, AND the concerns of residents. This is an important + difficult issue for all ~~concerned~~ concerned, I thank you for working to come up with the best solution for all.

In another subject, please exclude the proposed Mud Bay heli-pret and include appropriate language to prevent future proposals like LOTAK has.

Sincerely,
Laurie Dadourian