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November 22, 2011

Howard W. Valley
General Manager of Lands
Afognak Native Corporation
215 Mission Road, Suite 212
Kodiak, Alaska 99615

Dear Mr. Valley:

I write regarding your October 18 letter. I moved into Dry Spruce Bay in 1973 – This is where I raised my 6 children (3 of whom I personally delivered). My wife and I started in Ouzinkie, where we were married by Norman Smith. As a mechanic at Port Bailey I worked with Johnny Nelson, Harry Knagin, Reggie Griggs and many others from Ouzinkie and Port Lions when they came to Port Bailey to prepare for the fishing season.

After working at the cannery during the summer as a mechanic, I spent winters crewing on the Marmot Cape, Lady J, Cape Horn, Lucky Lady, Enterprise, Viking Star, and the Peril Cape, among others. One summer I even set net salmon with Wayne Knagin. I would often donate my time to fix my friends' boats from Ouzinkie and Port Lions. Bobbie Knagin would always greet me with a 'Howdy Pilgrim!'. I remember our family rushing to meet the mail plane flown by our favorite pilots – yourself, Steve Harvey, Willie Hall and others. I remember the 20+ years where I was the only fellow to use the Port Bailey zip code year around.

To meet those happy memories I also have sad memories - like when Harold Dierich crashed due to low visibility. In Harold's memory, my family and I would often walk over and pay our respects to his gravesite East of Ostrovka Point. I remember when I met the plane carrying my first born son's coffin (buried on our property) – still born after my wife and family contracted Giardia from the property's only water source.

As an extended family, our Native friends were a part of my kid's upbringing and can share with me pride in their success. In Pile Bay we raised 6 children – five of whom have finished college and all of whom have become productive members of society– one attorney, one physician who intends on practicing in rural Alaska when she finishes her residency, a teacher, a forest product executive, an aspiring engineer, and a law student. Our Native influences helped develop their strong work ethic and sense of family unity- One summer my wife and daughters took care of Pete Malutin's toddler to lend the aid he needed at the time and my wife and I will forever be grateful to Wayne Knagin for helping us safely get our kids home to Pile Bay during school breaks and keeping them out of the cold while waiting for the mail plane in Port Lions. Our history with Alaska and our Native friends and families runs deep and I would be happy to sit down, discuss, and share the many stories I have with you.

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I spent my life improving the property in Pile Bay, reclaiming pieces that were being swept away by the tide and storms, and work to visit as often as my schedule will permit. It was only unexpected economic conditions that forced me from living there full time, and I have spent the last few years working and saving so that my wife and I can return to our home permanently.

I can only hope you, Mr. Valley, are able to help us reach some type of agreement which will address the concerns of the Afognak Native Corporation, but will also allow my wife and I to hold onto our family's history and our only home.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Thomas Malmberg". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name.

Thomas W. Malmberg