

AGENDA ITEM *P.L. # 2.*
Lands

To: Kenai Peninsula borough Clerk
144 N. Binkley
Soldotna, AK 99669

Date: 6/6/2005

From: Rob Massengill - Owner of parcels 133-430-04 & 05.
P.O. Box 932
Kasilof, AK 99610
Ph# 260-7697

Re: Written Comment for Public Hearing for Pollard Loop Natural Gas Line. Resolution 2005-046

Hello,

My name is Rob Massengill and I am submitting this written comment for the public hearing scheduled for June 7, 2005 for Resolution 2005-046 (Pollard Loop Natural Gas Line). I am a property owner of two lots in the affected area and I am against the gas line as it is currently being proposed for the following reasons.

- 1) I would have to pay for a utility that I have no intention of utilizing. The cost to me is projected at over \$4,000 and would be a financial hardship for me and certainly for others owning more lots.
- 2) It is unnecessary to demand that uninterested parties subsidize a utility when those wanting it can afford it themselves without a huge cost difference. Natural gas is a luxury, not a necessity. I suggest the Borough rethink the forcing of construction liens on the 20-25% that don't support the gas line.
- 3) Bringing in natural gas can have the following effect on a neighborhood: A) increase the demand and appeal for property, thus encouraging growth in an area many living within would prefer to remain semi-rural. B) when property values/sales increase due to gas availability, this can ultimately lead to an increase in Borough property taxation.
- 4) Page one of the original petition notice mailed to affected property owners stated that failure to pay their "lien" for this gas line would be cause for foreclosing proceedings. I personally think that this is threatening language and it represents the wrong approach when informing others they may be required to pay thousands of dollars towards a project they may or may not want. The Borough might ultimately choose to foreclose on an individual for failure to pay, but is this the right message property owners should receive initially? It certainly sent the wrong message to me and immediately put me on the defensive.
- 5) Natural gas prices are climbing, shortages are looming, and there is no reason to believe prices won't continue to rise significantly for years to come. I choose to use alternative energy sources.
- 6) The argument exists that all landowners benefit by having natural gas available because it increases the "sell" value of their property. I'd prefer not having to move away to benefit from something I paid for.

Finally, I would like to state that I understand and support my neighbors who do want the gas line brought in. I do not support the action of pushing residents into financial hardship for those not desiring the utility.

Sincerely, Rob Massengill

