

LBC member withdraws from Red Dog detachment decision

In a letter to Local Boundary commission Chairman Robert Eder, member Bert Greist of Selawik informed the Commission of his decision not to participate further in the pending proceedings involving detachment of NANA Regional Corporation lands from the North Slope Borough. Greist released the following statement along with a copy of his letter to the Commission.

"As with all Local Boundary considerations, the petition for detachment of certain lands from the North Slope Borough is one which required action by the Local Boundary Commission Members — who respect the significance of the request to render a fair and impartial decision.

I believe that members of the Commission, myself included, are fully capable of weighing the evidence regarding this proposal and arriving at conclusions which reflect objective analysis. However, I believe also that my involvement in the decision making process has generated unnecessary controversy which has served to detract from the significance of the real issues. My decision to sit on the Commission as a voting member in regard to the detachment proceeding was not made lightly.

To this point I honestly believed, and still do, that my membership in the NANA Regional Corporation has in no way affected my judgement and ability to participate fairly in these proceedings. However, it is my responsibility to recognize when personal considerations threaten to foreshadow the issue of legitimate concerns to the people of the State of Alaska. The interests of the state lie with the detachment proceedings, not with Bert Greist, Local Boundary Commission Member.

Therefore, to allow the Local Boundary Commission to discharge its duty in consideration of the proposed detachment without distraction, I am withdrawing as a voting member during the deliberations of the detachment issue."