



Offshore Systems Inc.

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Dear Unalaska City Council Members,

My name is Nickolas Reed and I have lived and worked in Dutch Harbor for 16 years. Like many, I found this island and community to be the land of opportunity for anyone who could work hard, tolerate inclement weather, and had a sense of adventure. The community and industry rewards hard work with good pay and for those who either worked only the seasons and left the island or were fortunate enough to work for an employer who provided housing and utilities, their quality of life was greatly improved by the opportunities Dutch Harbor has to offer.

The other side of this coin are the permanent residents and individuals who chose to re-locate themselves and often their families to live full time in Dutch Harbor. Yes, income is still good for everyone but the cost of living in Dutch Harbor is tremendous. The cost of utilities, healthcare, groceries, and travel have been a great burden on those who make this amazing community so unique and appealing. I always asked myself, why can't it be better? The longer I remained in Dutch Harbor the more I learned about the logistical hurdles and challenges the community and businesses faced in providing these essential services, so to me it became just one of those "cost of living in Dutch" topics. You must accept the good with the bad in any scenario, right? What is your utility bill this month? A few "Dutch Harbor Dollars"? more like \$300-\$400 per month with intermittent power outages that usually do not have notification. Do you have a special diet? That weekly grocery bill is going to run you at least a couple "Dutch Harbor Dollars". It should not be this way for this community.

As I said, it runs with the territory and for me and my wife, it's manageable but I can't help but have great concern for my co-workers and friends in the community who have families and dreams that struggle with utility payments and food expense. In my opinion, Chena has provided a working, proven model to alleviate some significant burdens on the community and provide an enormous opportunity for further growth. I understand there is calculated risk involved with any new venture but to decline this opportunity to improve your community, grow your community and to be a model to the world would in my opinion, be poorly received by your constituents. Chena does not offer solutions to all of our problems, but it does offer prospect of easing many of them and the possibility of creating Dutch Harbor as a greater land of opportunity. I urge you to take this opportunity to put in the hard work, adapt that sense of adventure and redefine Dutch Harbor as the "#1 Green Renewable Commercial Fishing Port in the Nation".

Winston Churchill stated- "A pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity; an optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty."-

We are a community of optimists.

Thank you,
Nickolas Reed
Facility Manager,
Offshore Systems Inc.