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Public Comment

Dale

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**From:** Robert A. Penland [mailto:[penland@alaska.net](mailto:penland@alaska.net)]  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 10, 2015 2:39 PM  
**To:** [dbagley@borough.kenai.ak.us](mailto:dbagley@borough.kenai.ak.us)  
**Subject:** mayor's proposed assistant

Dale Bagley,

I note that Mayor Navarre is requesting assembly approval of an additional position described as "special assistant to the mayor on oil gas and mining."

I am categorically opposed to approval of any such position. The Borough needs to be tightening its belt, not creating more bureaucracy.

There are ample resources existing to deal with issues arising from oil and gas development. The Mayor himself can engage in any gladhanding and high level discussions with industry. He already has a Chief of Staff and a Special Assistant. Further, he needs to direct current existing departments to address impacts and needs as they arise, namely, Planning Department, School District, Capital Projects, Land Management, etc.

Further, I recently retired from one of the largest engineering/construction firms in the world (Bechtel) which has an extensive portfolio of LNG developments, several ongoing at the present time. I can assure you the proposed LNG project for Nikiski is substantially far down a long road yet to be travelled. Planning, design and construction completion will be many years distant.

This proposed position is neither needed now, nor have I seen any details on specific duties or expectations of this position. Let's see a cost-benefit analysis and value-added justification, not some amorphous talking points on "how helpful" this will be.

Until I see compelling reasons for this position, I am strongly urging your opposition. Feel free to share this e-mail with your colleagues.

Bob Penland  
Soldotna, Assembly District 4