



January 29, 2020

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)
Colonel Phillip Borders
Alaska District
US Army Corps of Engineers
PO Box 6898
JBER, AK 99506-0898

RE: Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Supplemental Environmental Assessment (IFRSEA) Port of Nome Modification, REQUEST to extend public comment period

Dear Colonel Borders:

Bering Straits Native Corporation is the regional Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) Corporation for the Bering Strait region. Kawerak is the regional tribal consortium for the Bering Strait region. **We are writing you jointly to respectfully request an extension of the public comment period of at least 90 days for the referenced IFRSEA.**

The Draft IFRSEA for the Port of Nome issued December 31, 2019 is extraordinarily complex with exhaustive narratives about hydrology, economics, essential fish and marine mammal habitat, engineering, and Alaska Native cultural impacts. In an e-mail dated January 29, 2020 Jenipher Cate, PhD, Marine Biologist, Chief of Project Management, Civil Works USACE, Alaska District denied Kawerak's friendly administrative request to extend the public comment period. It is our hope the USACE gathers thoughtful and meaningful input from the public to ensure that it considers all of the possible local, regional and national concerns. Much is at stake for the lives of the people of the region. A fuller public process must be allowed for public engagement and federal decision making.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Gail R. Schubert, President & CEO
Bering Straits Native Corporation

Melanie Bahnke, President
Kawerak, Inc.

CC: Senator Lisa Murkowski
Senator Dan Sullivan
Congressman Don Young
Kendall Campbell, Tribal Liaison
Bruce Sexauer, R CIV USARMY CEPOA