

September 22, 2006

Paul R. Anderson
Superintendent, Denali National Park and Preserve
PO Box
Denali Park, Alaska 99755

Dear Superintendent Anderson,

On behalf of the Board and members of the Denali Citizens Council, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to comment on the C-Camp Improvements EA, released in August 2006. Many of our 350 members live and work at the gateway to Denali National Park and Preserve, within a few miles of the proposed project. We are concerned about and interested in this project.

As you know, we requested an extension of the comment period in order to more fully evaluate the many details discussed in this EA. We were told that NPS could not extend the comment deadline because the service wished to begin the project. From this assertion one could well conclude that the EA is simply a formality, not a decision document, and there will be little that public comment can do to affect the process. We feel that it is important, when using the NEPA process, to encourage good faith public participation in decision-making, and to explore thoroughly the most controversial aspects of any federal action. We are disappointed in this particular EA in the areas of scoping, internal review and involvement of the public. Every single decision that NPS makes has impacts into the foreseeable future, and therefore should be undertaken with an extra measure of prudence.

We acknowledge that growth in visitation and the “built environment” has accelerated over the last few years. The entrance area of the park, where this project will be constructed, is the hub area for administrative facilities. The need to upgrade facilities was recognized in the 1997 Frontcountry Development Concept Plan and we recognize that need. This EA has been “tiered off” that plan, and **mostly** proposes projects that reflect decisions made in that plan, with some significant variation from DCP mandates. Our suggestions and concerns regarding the content of the preferred alternative and on the general structure and goals statements in the EA begin on the next page.

DCC Board and Staff

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