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Peter Pan Seafoods' Position on the King Cove Road Issue.

Recent editorial comments from groups opposed to the Izembek and Alaska Peninsula Refuge land swap and King Cove road project have characterized this as not about community safety but being done primarily at the behest of Peter Pan Seafoods for our economic gain. This could not be further from the truth. The supporting federal legislation clearly states that the road "Shall be used for noncommercial purposes." (S. 1929 sec. 6403 (a)(1)(A)) Furthermore it goes on to state that prohibited uses would include ".....organized transportation of employees to a business or commercial facility." (6403 (B)(A)) Thus our only legal use of this road could be for prompt safe access to the airstrip at Cold Bay for our employees in the case of a medical emergency, just as the community at large is seeking.

Clearly the efforts of the Region and the State of Alaska to build this road are in the interest of the safety and wellbeing of the people who live and work here. We understand that politics is a contact sport but highlighting Peter Pan Seafoods' supposed commercial interests as the villain in this battle is deceitful and cynical. This misdirection can only be surmised as a ploy to garner support for a very narrow cause that puts animal welfare above that of the residents of the Aleutians East Region.

Dale Schwarzmiller
Vice President, Alaska Production