

## Debra Thompson

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**From:** Daniel Sullivan <danjsulli@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 23, 2023 7:06 PM  
**To:** Assembly  
**Subject:** Blind Slough Mental Health Trust Land Sale

I am writing to express my strong support for keeping public access to the inner shores of Blind Slough in the public trust. This is an important location for subsistence fishing, sportfishing, and tourism. It is one of the few accessible spots for those without a boat, for kids, for families, the elderly and even some with disabilities. Whether the Borough bids on this parcel, or attempts to renew negotiations w/ Mental Health to trade for another parcel, or works with Mental Health to allow an easement through the upper tidelands, or partners with other organizations, I support any and all efforts to to maintain public access. Public lands provide equitable access for all citizens, regardless of their socio-economic status. Restricting access and likely excluding borough residents for the sake of someone's recreational cabin is not "change" that benefits this community. It certainly does not address the affordable housing situation we are facing. Yes, the Trust is responsible for generating revenue from its land to support the mental health programs/services in Alaska. But over the years, the Alaska Mental Health Trust has had many conflicts and controversies related to their methods of land disposal and their lack of cooperation with the communities where their holdings are located. They seem to have no concern for the cultural and historical significance of certain trust lands, for the local economic impact of their land disposal, for access and use disputes, and about the lack of transparency in land sales. It is exactly this lack of transparency and cooperation that has led us to this current situation.

Thank you for your consideration  
Dan Sullivan