

April 2, 2010

The Honorable Sean Parnell  
Governor of Alaska  
550 W. 7<sup>th</sup> Ave. Suite 1700  
Anchorage, AK 99501

RE: Proposed new Crime Lab

Dear Governor Parnell,

As the former Director of the current State Crime Lab I recently found out that I was quoted in a Public Safety document as being 100% in favor of the new proposed crime laboratory. This is false.

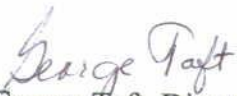
The "Critical Review of the Crime Laboratory Replacement Project" is a document that should be reviewed by all those making a decision on the funding for this project. It is a fair comprehensive document written by volunteers at no cost to the State.

There is no doubt that the current Crime Laboratory needs more space but building a new 84000 sq ft replacement is way over the top. In the new proposed laboratory millions of dollars are slated to be spent on aesthetics rather than utility, something is wrong. For instance polished granite stair treads at \$900 dollars each. I know of no crime laboratory in the over 400 plus in the US where aesthetics has helped solve any crimes.

It has been mentioned that this Project will provide for a 20 year future expansion. No one can forecast what the technology will be in the future. Will Public Safety be paying utilities on this unused space for the next twenty years? With this large a building will Public Safety have a future operating budget to cover the cost of these increased utilities?

My background includes the overseeing, equipping and hiring for three satellite crime Labs in Texas as well as the oversight, equipping and hiring for the current Alaska State Lab. The current Alaska Lab cost around 5 million including equipment in 1986. I would invite anyone to help me understand why we need an 84000 sq ft new laboratory costing over 100 million. Remember there are change order costs so the total cost will be well over 100 million. Can Alaska afford this??

Respectfully submitted,

  
George Taft, Director Retired  
Crime Laboratory 1984-2002