

From: [Grace Merkes](#)
To: [Commission, Boundary \(CED sponsored\)](#)
Subject: Comment on Nikiski Incorporation
Date: Thursday, February 23, 2017 11:37:00 PM

My name is Grace Merkes. I have lived in Sterling, Alaska since 1960 on our homestead. I have been involved in a lot of community, school, borough and state issues over the years. I am a past borough assembly member for over 17 years. Here are my comments in regard to the Incorporation of Nikiski as a city.

I can understand why the petitioners of Nikiski want to incorporate. Their main point is that they want to keep decision making as local as possible which is a laudable reason. I believe their request to incorporate is based mostly on trying to capture as many tax dollars in as large of an area that they can capture. They will not be able to provide any more efficient service then is already being provided .

It is hard to tell where the boundary lines on the proposed new Nikiski city limits. You have to be a real estate attorney to decipher their lines. My biggest concern is if the boundary comes as far outreaching as the Swanson River area which is my big objection to. There is no road from Nikiski to the Swanson River area. The only road out to Swanson River comes from Sterling to Swanson River Oil fields. All the people that used to live at Swanson River field came to Sterling to go to our Elementary school, our churches and our social life.

So my request is to take a real good look at the boundary lines if they take in the Swanson River area and also all the property they are wanting to include from across the Cook Inlet.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this issue.

Grace Merkes