

**From:** [Rick Watson](#)  
**To:** [Commission, Boundary \(CED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Re: NOTICE OF FILING A PETITION RE: WHALE PASS  
**Date:** Thursday, February 04, 2016 12:37:47 AM

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To: State of Alaska - Local Boundary Commission

RE: Petition to Incorporate Whale Pass as a second class city

I have taken the time to review this petition and would like to add my comments and concerns.

Although I am a resident and registered voter of Ketchikan, my property in Whale Pass is my second home. I understand that under Alaska Statutes local registered voters have the right to file this petition but the law to me is unfair. This type of petition affects all property owners not just the registered voters in the area. To suggest or present that a significant amount or percentage of registered voters are in support of this petition does not represent the true facts. Also if just the registered voters can accept this by majority vote once approved by the LBC, as a property owner, I am left out. How can I be left out of the decision process if something like this can affect me just as much as a registered voter in the area? I do see this type of approval acceptable in a larger population base. One that has a majority of local voting residents vs. non-voting property owners. In the case of Whale Pass if you look at the facts there are more property owners than voting residents. Therefore this does not represent a majority rule when only the voting residents can make the decision. However if the conditions were that a significant amount or percentage of property owners were able to decide, that would signify a proper display of justification.

That being said, amongst several others reasons as stated in the justification, a primary reason for the petition to become a second class city is to avoid the area being adopted by a future "Prince of Whales Borough" . Although I do agree this possibility does exist, I do not see this as proper justification.

The projected value to the residents and property owners is not justifiable. This is clearly present when considering the budget they have presented clearly shows over 60% of all future 1 year revenue will be allocated to administrative costs. The remaining 40% shows very little increase in spending for things that benefit the community such as road maintenance, EMS, Fire, Etc over current expenditures as a non second class city.

There are no facts supporting such statements as increased residency, tourism, etc. The projected income has no factual support and there is no support for this petition presented from the local industries such as lodging, bed and breakfasts, tourism whom are projected to fund a major portion of this form of government.

I find it very hard to justify all this in a community of less than 50 year round residents that based on the staffing levels projected for the City Council, Planning Commission, Administration and others which would require a very large percentage of these residents could not be considered biased in such a small population base.

I fear that due to the lack of sustainable funding. Future funding issues will progress to a state of affairs that dictates some form of property tax being assessed even though the stated initial intent is to not incorporate a property tax.

In conclusion I do not see any real significant benefits to the residents and property owners , other than a select few who will now become financially compensated rather than volunteers, that are not already available and ask the LBC to deny this petition on lack of merit.

Sincerely,

Richard R. Watson

Nami M. Watson

Property / Home Owners

Lot 11 block 5 Whale Pass

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**From:** Williams, Brent R (CED) <brent.williams@alaska.gov> on behalf of Commission, Boundary (CED sponsored) <lbc@alaska.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 3, 2016 2:40 PM  
**To:** Rick Watson  
**Cc:** McGee, Marty (CED); Collins, Eileen M (CED); Commission, Boundary (CED sponsored)  
**Subject:** RE: NOTICE OF FILING A PETITION RE: WHALE PASS

Hello Mr. Watson,

Thank you for your note. We appreciate your concerns. I'll try to address them for you. Any petition must go through a long public process, which has only just started for Whale Pass. The petition process requires providing certain public notice. The petition followed that required process, including printing in the *Ketchikan Daily News* the notice of the petition's acceptance for filing. Now the petition is in a public comment period that lasts until March 11. You are very welcome to send us any comments that you have concerning the petition at the below address, or at this email address. The staff and the Local Boundary Commission (LBC) will consider them seriously. The role of the LBC is to consider any proposed local boundary changes.

I respectfully urge you to look at the Whale Pass petition and related documents (including the notice and a schedule), which are available at <https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/dcra/LocalBoundaryCommission/CurrentPetitions/2016IncorporationPetitionforaSecondClassCityofWhalePass/petition.aspx>. Looking at the petition might answer your questions about the proposed incorporation. Additionally, the LBC staff will hold an informational meeting in Whale Pass, probably in April. Notice of that meeting will be

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[Petition, 2016 Incorporation Petition for a Second Class City of Whale Pass, Current Petitions, Local](#)

## Boundary Commission, Division of Community and Regional Affairs

www.commerce.alaska.gov

Division of Community and Regional Affairs, other key words

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provided. Persons interested in receiving future notices from the LBC are encouraged to sign up for the email list serve at <http://list.state.ak.us/soalists/DCED-LocalBoundaryCommission/il.htm>. We hope that you will be able to attend.

No incorporation can occur without the LBC's approval. After the second public comment period, the LBC will hold a hearing and vote on whether or not to approve the petition. *If* the LBC approves the petition, then there will be an election by the voters of Whale Pass as to whether to incorporate or not. This petition cannot be approved without the residents voting on it.

I hope that I have answered your questions. Please feel free to contact us if we can be of further service.

Thank you,

**Brent Williams**

Local Boundary Commission  
Alaska Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development  
550 W. 7th Avenue, Suite 1640  
Anchorage, AK 99501  
(907) 269-4559

Please be sure to send all email correspondence regarding Local Boundary Commission matters through the following email address: [lbc@alaska.gov](mailto:lbc@alaska.gov). This ensures that all LBC staff receive your correspondence in a timely manner. Thank you.

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**From:** Rick Watson [mailto:n55w131@live.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 03, 2016 12:54 PM  
**To:** Commission, Boundary (CED sponsored)  
**Subject:** NOTICE OF FILING A PETITION RE: WHALE PASS

Hello,

As a concerned property owner in Whale Pass I just happened to run across this proposal on the internet and I am concerned as to how something like this can take place without due diligence. For example, I have never been contacted, nor have I seen any public notices referring to this proposal.

How am I supposed to voice my concerns if I don't know about it and proper reasonable methods have not been addressed to contact affected property owners. In this case it seems two people came up with an idea to change the status of Whale Pass. I have many questions. Why? Who will benefit? What are the pro's & con's? and many more.

I see now, after the fact they held a meeting at the library in Whale Pass. Well I live in Ketchikan, Whale Pass is my second home. Even if I had known, to travel to Whale Pass is expensive and I should be give an opportunity to attend remotely or to be able to respond.

How can this be approved with the residents voting on this?

Richard R. Watson  
Property Owner  
Block 5 Lot 11  
Whale Pass