

March 30, 2012  
Mr. Brent Williams  
Local Boundary Commission Staff  
550 West Seventh Ave.  
Suite 1770  
Anchorage, AK 99501

RE:

Comments on Preliminary Report Regarding the Local Action Petition to Incorporate a Home Rule Borough of Petersburg and Dissolve the Home Rule City of Petersburg

Dear Commissioners,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the LBC preliminary report for the Petersburg Borough petition.

I have been a resident of Alaska since 1981, and lived in Juneau since 1989. I have also lived in Kodiak and Sitka, and have many good friends who live in Petersburg as well. I feel these experiences and my acquaintances with folks from coastal communities gives me a fair and balanced perspective on the issue before the LBC.

I have three chief concerns:

- 1) Since living in Juneau, I have visited Tracy Arm and Endicott Arm many times, both as a tourist (with visiting friends and relatives), taking daylong cruises with small and mid-size commercial operators. I have also kayaked several times in the area, (and know the tides!), and have overnighted in Ford's Terror, for example.

I take strong exception to the LBC decision to divide Tracy Arm and Endicott Arm between proposed Petersburg and existing Juneau boroughs. Many difficult and contentious discussions have been had over this area from a variety of stakeholders: all recognize that these watersheds are part of a combined system, both naturally and for human use. Dividing this important area between two boroughs will compromise many difficult decisions that have been made to manage this area in a fair way for those who wish to share it.

I also feel that placing Endicott Arm, Harbor Island, and the majority of Holkham Bay in the proposed borough of Petersburg will be an assignment in name only. The vast majority of visitors to this area (by several orders of magnitude) originate from and terminate in Juneau. Should emergencies arise in this area, it is a certainty that Juneau will be the first (and perhaps only) responder.

I recommend that the entire Tracy Arm and Endicott Arm watersheds be incorporated into the the Juneau Borough, by fixing a line westerly from Point League, for example, on the eastern shore of Stephens Passage.

- 2) I am very surprised that public notice of the LBC decision was not placed in the Juneau papers. I have at least a half dozen friends who have been very surprised



when I told them of the LBC decision, and haven't known how to comment on it.

- 3) I feel there are very strong arguments for extending the Juneau's borough south to Port Houghton, at least, and perhaps even to Cape Fanshaw. It is interesting to see that there no Petersburg comments (to date) that talk of historic uses of these lands, except for fishing the grounds in Stephens Passage. Given that the assignment of the land that is contested between the Petersburg and Juneau petitions will in no way affect fishing, and economies that derive from this industry, it seems particularly weak to argue that use of the ocean outside of this area is a reasonable justification for extending a petition for borough land to the Canada border.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on the Petersburg proposal. I do feel that if this decision were published in the Juneau papers, you would reasonably expect carefully considered input from the citizens of Juneau.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bruce Simonson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Bruce Simonson

