

From: [Mike Bauer](#)
To: [Commission, Boundary \(CED sponsored\)](#)
Subject: Public Comment City of Nikiski Incorporation
Date: Sunday, March 05, 2017 12:28:15 PM

Hello,

My name is Mike Bauer, here are my comments on the Incorporation of Nikiski into a legally recognized city.

I am 100% in favor of Incorporation.

Presently we pay for many of the services that a city provides, however we don't have 100% control of how those funds are spent. By incorporating into a legal city recognized by the State of Alaska, we will be able to gain control of those funds.

The Borough is trying to consolidate boards and service areas into the main borough. This hurts the areas that have taxed themselves to provide said services. As an outlying community, once the borough combines, we pay for services that aren't provided like they were before borough control. Road maintenance is one area that proves this. Monies in does not equal monies for provided service back to the community.

By consolidating we also lose representation for how the money is spent. We have one voice of eight, which is constantly over ridden when it is time to support our community.

Nikiski is unique in that industry is welcomed and supported here. We don't have many places to shop for clothing, groceries or common needs of everyday life. We do have several oilfield businesses that support the local refinery and off-shore platforms. Our local Chevron station might be closing, that leaves just one gas station owned by an oil company to support almost 6,000 residents.

By not having many of the shopping businesses like Kenai and Soldotna have, we don't have a tax base other than oilfield type industry and the underground resources they are extracting to produce taxes for our community.

One big issue in the future is the possibility of the LNG Gas pipeline coming to Nikiski, along with a huge refinery to be located here. As it now stands, Nikiski, does not have a legal say in anything that this proposed addition to our community will entail. The industry has held a few townhall meetings, but they haven't contacted any legal representative from the Community of Nikiski-because there is none. They have been in negotiations with the borough and City of Kenai.

The proposed pipeline and refinery will place massive demands on our local community in several areas. No. 1 is the road will need to be relocated, there is no voice from Nikiski on this matter. Property has been bought for the location of the refinery, homes have been boarded up and removed as if they never existed.

As part of the incorporation, Nikiski plans to use the Private Public Partnership (PPP), instead of costly city departments, that require overhead for employees. The overhead includes, wages, insurance, retirement and office buildings. The PPP will be controlled by a city council that approves contracts with local businesses that bid to provide services. The company that wins will be paying all of the insurance, wages, building fees, and retirement for their employees.

By Nikiski becoming a Home Rule City we will help the borough in many ways. By taking control of our roads, the borough will now be able to concentrate on other areas within the main road service area, one less outlying area they have to supply services too. The borough has to maintain over 630-miles of road, by removing the several hundred miles in the Nikiski Fire Service area they will have the present equipment to speed up snow removal and road maintenance in the other areas. In other words, reducing borough spending on road maintenance. This type of reduction in services will follow in other areas as well.

One thing that is very important about the PPP type of control: reduction of government. Something all candidates claim they will do when running for office. They seem to think it is just a contract, administered by a government

department. By allowing Nikiski to become a Home Rule City with legal powers to control our Self Determination, we will set an example for all cities in the State of Alaska, and the State of Alaska itself on how to reduce government and be able to apply the savings to needed programs. Paying for services and possibly building fund reserves as well!

To be able to provide the learning services that the PPP will provide will mean a solid tax base for Nikiski. The present proposed boundary includes a diverse area. Some of these areas might not qualify for inclusion. Specifically National Wildlife Parks and Reserves, located on the West and East Sides of Cook Inlet.

I feel that it will be OK to remove these areas from the proposed city limits. However, to fully take advantage of the PPP, we will need parts of the West Side of Cook Inlet to help provide a tax base for our services. We presently provide emergency services to the towns on the West side as well as the working platforms in the Inlet that provide energy resources for consumer use.

When these platforms have an emergency, it is our Nikiski Fire Department that provides services. They are trained, and have a diverse amount of equipment to provide these services. To lessen the boundary and not include the industry we are providing these services to, could jeopardize the timely manner in which emergency services are provided to remote locations, such as the platforms in the inlet, oilfield assets on the West of the inlet, Beluga and Tyonek.

We need parts of the West Side of Cook Inlet as a tax base to continue to provide the current level of services provided to the assets in our community/ Nikiski Fire Service Area.

Nikiski has always been a proactive community, when the borough hasn't provided services, we have taxed our selves to provide those services. Now through consolidation, the Borough will take control of those services, which removes our ability to self determine our future.

Nikiski is in danger of losing control of our remaining service areas, through borough consolidation. Not only will this consolidation increase the size of local borough government needed to control these areas, the community of Nikiski loses control of the funds voted for by the citizens to pay for services. Our one borough representative is constantly out-voted by the other borough assembly members.

By Nikiski becoming a Home Rule City, we can lead by example with the Public-Private Partnership, allowing others to see how to help government take control of out of control expenses. The Home Rule City of Nikiski, ensures my friends, kids and fellow Nikiski residents, will actually have a future and how that future will be guided by local voices inside the community.

Sincerely,
Michael J. Bauer