

**Resident of Soldotna Response to the Pending Motion to  
Convert Annexation Petition from Legislative Review to Local Option**

October 27, 2020

State of Alaska Local Boundary Commission  
c/o Jed Smith, Local Government Specialist  
550 W. 7th Ave., Ste. 1650  
Anchorage, AK 99501

Dear Commissioners:

My name is Tyson Cox, and I would like to thank you for your service. I served as a Soldotna City Council member from October 2017 through October 2019, and am currently serving as the Soldotna Area Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly representative (District 4). I understand and appreciate the amount of time and effort you have been putting into what I would consider to be a pretty thankless job. Decisions like these are difficult because no matter how you decide, a portion of the people will be unhappy with those choices. It takes a certain person to commit to such work.

I am writing today to voice my support for submitting the Soldotna Annexation Petition to the Legislature for review as requested by the City of Soldotna. Converting the Petition to a local option vote would not produce the equitable outcome I believe the Commission is looking for. As a Soldotna City Council member who participated in more than my fair share of annexation petition meetings, workgroups, and town halls, I can assure you that a vote of the residents living in the petition areas cannot fairly represent all the people who will be affected by their decision.

Local landowners, business owners, and residents who live, work, or own property in the City of Soldotna and potential annex areas should all be represented when considering such a large scale change to an area. The Legislative Review allows for all parties to be objectively represented by our State elected officials using a more balanced approach that is less likely to be subject to local, political influence. Every concerned Kenai Peninsula and Alaska resident who may be affected, either directly or indirectly, by this annexation will be represented in Legislative Review process.

“Let those who are impacted, decide” sounds like the perfect solution for such a controversial topic as annexation. Just the word *annexation* makes people cringe. Before joining the Council and diving into annexation head first, I too was convinced that a local option vote was the only logical choice. Letting constituents vote is always in the best interest of the elected official as the outcome is on the people leaving the representative without fault. This may be one reason why some Kenai Peninsula State officials/candidates have jumped on the local option bandwagon.

Even knowing that annexation by local option would be the easiest decision on me, I could not overlook how unfair a vote of so few people would be to the many business owners and landowners who would not have a voice. I realized that if a local option vote was to move forward we would essentially be giving about 140 people the power to decide the future of many landowners and business owners within the annex areas and Soldotna, not to mention the more than 4,300 residents of the City itself.

In conclusion, I ask each of you to strongly consider upholding the Soldotna Annexation Petition to the Legislature for review rather than converting the Petition to a local option vote. Such a vote would not produce a balanced and fair outcome for Soldotna, the Kenai Peninsula, or the State of Alaska. This Petition, with its subject areas having only a few to no residents each, is a perfect candidate for the Legislative Review process. To uphold the City of Soldotna’s original Petition for Annexation is the only conclusion if we are to continue with a fair and equitable decision making process for this and future Petitions of its kind.

I thank you for your time and service,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tyson R. Cox". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Tyson R. Cox  
Resident of the City of Soldotna, AK 99669

**From:** Dwight Ross  
**To:** [Commission, Boundary \(CED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** LBC board - Soldotna Annexation  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 27, 2020 4:05:39 PM

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LBC Board Members,

I support Local Option, I own property inside the proposed annexation area and am opposed to the annexation but in favor of local option. I do not live on this property - it is residential and commercial rentals.

I believe that residents who live in affected areas should have a vote. I believe the city is misrepresenting the level of opposition of the local residents in their pursuit of annexation. In their August 30, 2020 filing they do not represent accurately the level of opposition expressed in local public hearings held over the last several years.

At the local hearings residents of the proposed annexation area and residents of the city of Soldotna have testified against this proposed annexation.

I request that the local boundary commission give the residents of Soldotna and the proposed annexation area the opportunity to vote on this matter.

Thank you,  
Dwight Ross  
43355 Ross Drive  
Soldotna AK 99669

**From:** Carole Nolden  
**To:** [Commission, Boundary \(CED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Against Annexation  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 27, 2020 4:44:26 PM

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Carole Nolden  
34827 Patson Circle  
Soldotna, AK 99669

October 27, 2020

State of Alaska  
Department of Commerce, Community & Regional Affairs  
Local Boundary Commission  
550 W 7th AVE, STE 1650  
Anchorage, AK 99501-3510

Attn: Commissioners Wood, Harrington, Gallahorn, Trotter and Roberts

RE: City of Soldotna Proposed Annexation

I understand that the commission is wanting comments regarding the motion to move to Local Action election. However, I feel it needs to be noted again that the residents/landowners/business owners within the proposed annexation have repeatedly expressed their opposition to being included within the City of Soldotna. The City uses, in their petition, increasing their population and providing much coveted services as reasons we should embrace annexation into the City. They also state no services will be provided to these areas and to quote the City Manager herself the population will increase by an “estimated 140 people”. The 140 increase doesn’t even bring them to the minimum requirement for the City of Soldotna’s home rule status.

The City states in their August 30<sup>th</sup> letter that only two individuals that provided testimony during the public hearing are eligible to vote in a Local Action election. They also stated that these two individuals were in favor of the annexation. While this may be a partially true statement, I do not have access or could not find transcripts from that hearing, it is partially false. In September 2019, the City held a Pre-Submission meeting. There are transcripts available for this meeting. There is sixty-seven (67) pages of testimony by thirty-five (35) community members. Only one (1) testifying of their support for annexation. Of those testifying there were at least four (4) City of Soldotna residents voicing their opposition to the annexation. During the collection of public testimony, and easily accessed through the LBC’s website, there are letters from two community members opposing the annexation that are in fact Soldotna residents. I note again that the City of Soldotna only mentioned (and so graciously brought to the commission’s attention) the testimonies from the public hearing on August 5<sup>th</sup>. They make no mention of written testimonies, no mention of the community members who testified at the Pre-Submission meeting and no mention of the ongoing years of having this argument with the City.

Why is the City of Soldotna petitioning the commission to remove the motion to convert to Local Action election? Because they know they will lose if it’s put to a vote of the people. Yes, even their own citizens, while they may not be compelled enough to testify, a lot of them

do not approve of their own cities action regarding the annexation. They are hoping you will remove the motion, approve the petition in full and pass it along for Legislative Review. They are hoping that this has drawn out long enough for us in opposition to have either grown tired of fighting or simply forgotten. They are hoping that you will help them to circumvent the wishes of the people and hand them their land grab.

While I would much prefer that the commission simple deny and throw out the City of Soldotna's petition for annexation, if that cannot happen then let the people vote!

**From:** Carole Nolden  
**To:** [Commission, Boundary \(CED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Against Annexation  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 27, 2020 4:44:26 PM

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Carole Nolden  
34827 Patson Circle  
Soldotna, AK 99669

October 27, 2020

State of Alaska  
Department of Commerce, Community & Regional Affairs  
Local Boundary Commission  
550 W 7th AVE, STE 1650  
Anchorage, AK 99501-3510

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While I would much prefer that the commission simple deny and throw out the City of Soldotna's petition for annexation, if that cannot happen then let the people vote!

**From:** Patrick Nolden  
**To:** [Commission, Boundary \(CED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Funny River Annex  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 27, 2020 5:00:22 PM

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Pat Nolden

34827 Patson Circle\*

Soldotna, AK 99669

October 27, 2020

State of Alaska

Department of Commerce, Community & Regional Affairs

Local Boundary Commission

550 W 7th AVE, STE 1650<sup>[1]</sup><sub>SEP</sub> Anchorage, AK 99501-3510

Dear Commissioners Wood, Harrington, Gallahorn, Trotter, Roberts

Regarding: City of Soldotna Proposed Annexation

I am a landowner and current resident the proposed annexation on Funny River Rd. I want to express my desire to not be annexed. The city of Soldotna will provide no services to my annexed area.

How can you people give any rationale to annex this area other than creating revenue? I think it borders on criminal behavior.



Patrick Nolden

907-252-7288

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**Regards, Pat Nolden**  
**UAA Adjunct**  
**NAEP Assessment Coordinator**  
**907.252.7288**

**From:** Abi Jakits  
**To:** [Commission, Boundary \(CED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Support  
**Date:** Monday, October 26, 2020 2:34:58 PM

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Hi! My name is Abi Jakits. I live in the city of Soldotna, and I am writing in the support of the annexation petition.

-Abigael Jakits

**From:** Alyse Horton  
**To:** [Commission, Boundary \(CED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Soldotna Annexation Petition  
**Date:** Monday, October 26, 2020 2:36:36 PM

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Hi,

My name is Alyse Horton, resident of Soldotna Alaska. I live within city limits and am writing this to say I fully support annexation in my town of Soldotna. I think we need opportunity for growth and see this as a great option.

Thank you,  
Alyse

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** Dan Green  
**To:** [Commission, Boundary \(CED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Soldotna Annexation comments 10-26-20  
**Date:** Monday, October 26, 2020 12:25:18 PM

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## Local Boundary Commission.

As you're all aware annexation by the city of Soldotna has been deliberated for years. There's been one consistent message during this entire process, that being those affected wanted the right to vote. That request has been and continues to be completely ignored. I struggle with a process that allows a city council the authority to dramatically change a property owners rights and the affected owners have no meaningful impute. I've attended numerous public hearings on annexation and the overwhelming testimony requested the right to vote. That testimony has and continues to be brushed aside.

As a developer that works both in and out of the city I certainly understand the differences and it's an undeniable fact, development is more expensive and restrictive in the city. Land use regulations, zoning codes, sign codes, landscaping, paving and many other restrictions affect how a property owner uses their land. Differences are significant and have profound consequences and those affected should have a voice. Unfortunately their concerns have been completely omitted.

Consequences of annexation have a profound effect on property owners rights, therefore they certainly should have a voice and vote in the matter. Their concerns has been entirely ignored therefore I would encourage you to reject this petition or insist that those affected have a right to vote.

Thank you for your consideration.

**Dan Green**

Box 1493  
34100 Airport Circle  
Soldotna, AK. 99669  
Phone 907-262-6223 Fax 907-262-7836  
**Cell 907-398-9199**

Dan Green

G & S Construction Inc. - Since 1976

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34100 Airport Circle  
Soldotna, AK. 99669  
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Cell 907-398-9199

Website: [www.gandsconstruction.net](http://www.gandsconstruction.net)



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**From:** Dan Nelson (AK)  
**To:** [Commission, Boundary \(CED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Conversion of Soldotna Annexation to Public Process  
**Date:** Sunday, October 25, 2020 8:16:36 PM

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Commissioners, I appreciate the opportunity to once again have input into the process of a forced annexation versus the public process. I am concerned that the city petition is completely bypassing the say of the community. The city is stating that the process would not be fair due to the amount of residents in the annexation is small and there was not participation. I personally attended the meetings where the public was allowed to participate. The meetings were well attended and several people lent their opinions and testified. The original annexation included a much larger area and the overwhelming testimony was against annexation. The city reduced the areas to those that do not have a large concentration of residences. The businesses and the residents within the forced annexation are frustrated and truly believe the "city is going to do what they want to do" no matter what the people who are affected by process say. I believe this country has been founded on a simple premise "By the people, for the people" which means there is no question it should go to a public vote or votes. This will give the residents of the affected areas a voice that matters. I believe the businesses that are being forced into city boundaries without any change in service will also have a say through a city wide vote. Those that work and patronize the businesses will speak for the businesses.

I truly hope the LBC will see this for what it is and require the city of Soldotna to allow the residents to have a voice. I obviously manage a business that will be affected and I do live within the city boundaries.

Sincerely

Daniel Nelson

**Dan Nelson**

General Manager

48855 Funny River Road

Soldotna AK 99669

Phone 907-262-9143

Fax 907 262-1338

Cell 907 632-2052

Email address: [dan.nelson@sbsalaska.com](mailto:dan.nelson@sbsalaska.com)

**From:** Beth Wilson  
**To:** [Commission, Boundary \(CED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Annexation Petition  
**Date:** Monday, October 26, 2020 2:38:31 PM

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My name is Elizabeth Wilson. I support the annexation petition from the city of Soldotna.

**From:** GENE MOYER  
**To:** [Commission, Boundary \(CED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Soldotna Annexation  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 21, 2020 2:25:03 PM

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To Whom It may concern:

Please stop the annexation!

Or

Put it up to a vote by those affected, including the business owners in the area.

Regards

Gene Moyer  
Soldotna area  
907-690-0830



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**From:** Jim F  
**To:** [Commission, Boundary \(CED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Soldotna annexation  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 21, 2020 2:22:23 PM

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I strongly agree with the board decision to let the voters decide if annexation is wanted. As well as residents of Soldotna and the targeted areas, ALL property owners in the areas should be included in the vote.

Jim Fassler  
[jimfassler@gmail.com](mailto:jimfassler@gmail.com)  
Ridgeway, Alaska  
907-398-8384



**From:** kimmieminogue@gmail.com  
**To:** [Commission, Boundary \(CED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Soldotna Annexation Petition  
**Date:** Monday, October 26, 2020 4:45:31 PM

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Hi my name is Kimberly Sutton. I was born and raised on the Kenai Peninsula and currently live on Gaswell Rd. with my husband and two children.

We would like to show our full support of the Soldotna Annexation Petition.

Thank you.

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** Lloyd Stenersen  
**To:** [Commission, Boundary \(CED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Soldotna annexation  
**Date:** Monday, October 26, 2020 3:14:42 PM

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I am writing to voice my objection to the City Council's plan to annex Oehler Rd .Area one (1) into the city of Soldotna

I have been a resident of Soldotna since 2013 and owned the property on Oehler Road since 2004 and do not want to be part of the City of Soldotna.

I am also concerned that proper notice has not been made to the residents who will be most affected by this plan.

I only find out about this from other residents, and people who do not use Facebook are being excluded from knowing what plans are being made, or having an opportunity to express their opinions. The City Council needs to develop a plan to involve residents in the process. I would like to be notified by email and certified letter from now on and recommend you send information to other residents in the annexation areas as well.

Again ..I am against the annexation!!

Sincerely,

Lloyd Stenersen...  
43580 Oehler Road  
Soldotna, Alaska 99669

Phone 907 262 7500  
Cell 360-907-5141  
Lloyd@cascadewest.com

**From:** marc crouse  
**To:** [dced-localboundarycommission](mailto:dced-localboundarycommission)  
**Subject:** Soldotna's Amnexasion  
**Date:** Friday, October 23, 2020 12:12:11 PM

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LBC Commission,

I am once again writing to address the procedure the Soldotna Council has used in this process. Miss Queen seems to only care about the rules that help Soldotna's plan for forced Annexation. In her letter she states that those few being annexed should not be allowed to control the process but she's fine with 6 Council members controlling ours who have millions invested in our businesses. Yet the council caved into the K-Beach area on annexation. Was it because of the large amount of people or the single council man who had property there?

Miss Queen states only two Soldotna residents testified and were in support of it. First off, it was the first ever zoom meeting. Most people were unaware of it or how to gain access to it. Miss Queen knows most of Soldotna does not want annexation. They tried that only to realize that it would fail, so they changed the rules to attempt it again. That failed also and the Mayor at the time and the last two all told them they would veto it.

As I stated in my previous letters when the last elected Mayor passed away they seized the opportunity to select a temporary council member for Mayor who was for annexation and against all the residents and people being annexed who said let's wait for a new Mayor. They stated under no circumstances was the annexation going to be stopped.

I have also talked to our Senator Pete Micciche who was also our Mayor and he has told me twice he is against it if the people are not allowed to vote on it. Once again I am asking for the Residents of Soldotna and the people of the Borough to be given a voice in this to let the people of the area decide this matter by a democratic vote. That's all we really want. Thanks for your service and time on this important matter.

\*\*Please acknowledge receipt of this email so that I know it has reached the right hands.

Marc Crouse  
Owner, Alaska Bolt and Chain  
36314 Kenai Spur Highway  
Soldotna, Alaska 99669  
907-262-7983

**From:** Big Dog Custom 4x4 and auto repair  
**To:** [Commission, Boundary \(CED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Soldotna Annexation  
**Date:** Monday, October 26, 2020 4:18:43 PM  
**Importance:** High

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Hello-

My name is Matthew Lay, I own one of the properties the city of Soldotna had on their list to annex.

The city of Soldotna has Taken every effort to keep people from having their voices heard. They hired a group to poll the people. That company left many statements out of the report. They failed to include many signatures that were received against the annexation. The city has refused to listen to the people in the areas.

The City Of Soldotna refuses to follow their own prewise standard practices. The City of Soldotna has even told this Board What the Practices is, in their report they have stated too the board that their standard was to annex areas that asked for it. Now , under the auspices of their lack of growth and their boundary is shaped unequal. the city now demands that we are to accept their take over of our property.

The City took time to write the Boundary Commission, and add more to their argument. This is a back door way of adding to their fight against We the People, and attempt to keep the people from having the right to have their voice heard.

This Commission has given us a short time, All though the City of Soldotna was given months to add to their Fight. with that said, the city has made the statement that only two people would or could vote for/or against the annexation if the commission was to turn this into a vote of the people. The only way that would happen would be if the City REFUSED to let the people that are affected by this, to VOTE, and have their voice heard.

The City of Soldotna has shown that they are unwilling to allow a vote of the people without being told they must.

I Ask that the Boundary Commission to turn the forced annexation into a vote of the people that this is affecting, and give the people back the right to have their voice heard. The City Of Soldotna has chosen to abandon their standard of practice of putting the annex to a vote of the people, or annexing areas that request to be annex. I Ask the Boundary Commission to turn this into a vote of the people that are affected by this.

Big Dog Custom 4x4 and Auto Repair  
Matthew and Tracy Lay  
With GOD All Things are Possible  
907-260-9125

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**From:** Odie  
**To:** [Commission, Boundary \(CED sponsored\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Maureen Pack](#)  
**Subject:** Annexation  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 20, 2020 11:00:19 PM

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In regard to The city of Soldotna's proposed annexation:

This has been brought up, time and time again. Money and man hours (hired consultants from outside alaska) devoted to forcing this annexation , which the people have repeatedly rejected. Only the city council seems to be determined to get this done. It has been shown that it is just a money grab, for affected businesses mainly.

The disturbing part is

1: they keep trying ;

2: precedent will be set for the next grab and the next, etc.

We live outside the city for a REASON : we don't want to live in the city. Because we don't live in the city, we can't vote on city things that will affect us, those who live and have business outside the city.

Please do not allow this to pass. There will be more like this in the future and this one has been in the works for several years, as they just keep trying to push it through.

Yours,

Maureen Pack  
36765 Frazier rd  
Soldotna 99669  
9072528709  
Odie's Bead-it.

Sent from my iPhone

Oct 25, 2020

To: Local Boundary Commission (LBC)  
State of Alaska

From: Patricia Patterson  
1009 Crow Court  
Kenai AK 99611

Re: Public Comment on option to convert City of Soldotna's petition from legislation review method to local action method.

I support the option to covert this petition to local action method.

I am the owner of land and two retail businesses that are affected by this annexation petition. My businesses are located at the very top of area 7. The city of Soldotna city council has only seen me as a "not-eligible voter and revenue source". By changing this petition to a local action, the voters of Soldotna and voters in the annexation area will determine my future. I believe they see me as a "local person" and not just an "income provider".

I also believe that Covid has made it difficult to have any control over our daily lives. It is especially challenging to participate in government that is only available via internet.

Opting for "local vote" will give the people of Soldotna and the surrounding area a chance, for self-determination at a time when we need it most. Please give the citizens in this area the right to vote on this important decision.

Thank you  
Patricia Patterson  
Land Owner and business owner  
36312 Irons Ave, Ridgeway AK.  
907-398-0202

**From:** romeo@ptialaska.net  
**To:** [Commission, Boundary \(CED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Attn.. Eileen Raese  
**Date:** Saturday, October 24, 2020 11:42:49 AM

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Dear LBC,

I have written letters before about this annexation.. This has been going for several years.

I am tired of this. Stated my opinion in my previous letters.

Again.. I am against the forced annexation.

I dont understand what the reason is of having city meeting about this and then do whatever they want.

Been here at this adres for 42 yrs. and I dont want to be part of the city.

Also from now on I would recommend you and the city of soldotna send certified letters to people involved with the annexation instead of an couple of people hearing about this through facebook.

Sincerely,  
Renske Vinke  
43628 Oehler Rd  
Soldotna  
907 252 0957



**From:** Vern Nusunginya  
**To:** [Commission, Boundary \(CED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Annexation  
**Date:** Sunday, October 25, 2020 6:44:51 AM

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I would like the LBC to give residents within the KPB the opportunity to vote on annexation by the city of Soldotna.

It is my belief that government exists to serve the people and those in authority, within the government, should voice and support the voice of the people.

Thank you,  
Vern Nusunginya  
Soldotna, Alaska

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** Bill Elam  
**To:** [Commission, Boundary \(CED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Soldotna Annexation  
**Date:** Monday, October 26, 2020 7:06:36 PM

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Dear Boundary Commission,

Thank you for giving us the extended opportunity to have additional public commitment on the current issue of annexation in Soldotna.

I am opposed to annexation but I am even more opposed to annexation through legislation from a city that will not listen to the voice of the people. We are not asking to be added to the city, the city is coming in and taking over, it's basically a land grab through legislation.

This issue has already been voted down but it will not go away. The city is attempting to use you to force annexation through the most aggressive means, legislation. They are attempting to use you, the Local Boundary Commission, to set a new precedence and we cannot let this happen.

We the citizens ask that you either tell the city no or let us vote on it and we will tell them no again.

Thank you,  
Bill Elam

**From:** Charles Pribbenow  
**To:** [Commission, Boundary \(CED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Soldotna annexation plan  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 27, 2020 1:01:15 AM

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To Alaska's Local Boundary Commission members:

In regard to Soldotna's proposed annexation, and in regard to Commissioner Lance Robert's motion to convert the petition from legislative review to local option, please support the motion for LOCAL OPTION and allow the residents that are affected to have a voice in the decision.

Please note that many of us being affected are strongly opposed to this annexation.

Thank you

Charles A Pribbenow

KPB resident and land owner.

**From:** Craig Phillips  
**To:** [Commission, Boundary \(CED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Annexation  
**Date:** Monday, October 26, 2020 6:28:50 PM

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We would like to go on record as supporting local voters' decision-making power regarding annexation. As life-long Alaskans, who have endeavored to continue to live in a rural environment, the growth of cities and towns and the absorption of rural area into the same is a threat to our way of life. We would like to see it ensured, through legislation, that those who are targeted for annexation have the final say, through voting, whether or not to be annexed into a city or town.

Thank you  
Suzanne Albright Phillips  
Craig V. Phillips

**From:** Daniel Vin Zant  
**To:** [Commission, Boundary \(CED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Local vote or legislate review  
**Date:** Monday, October 26, 2020 9:33:10 PM

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I apove of the local option & appose legislated review of our area.

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S8, an AT&T 5G Evolution capable smartphone  
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**From:** Jason Lattin  
**To:** [Commission, Boundary \(CED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Soldotna Annexation  
**Date:** Monday, October 26, 2020 8:53:45 PM

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Hello,

My name is Jason Lattin, and our family lives at 410 Turnbuckle Terrace in Soldotna. We are one of the properties that would be annexed if the proposed annexation is passed.

I am writing to express my encouragement of the city to allow the public to vote on the proposed annexation and not pass it by governmental fiat. As a livestock owner, I would not like to be encumbered by city laws that make sense downtown but not in the area where I am at.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Jason Lattin

**From:** Laurie Mead  
**To:** [Commission, Boundary \(CED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Forced City Anex  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 27, 2020 6:49:12 AM

---

I have lived on Kbeach for over 25 years. I recommend and support the local option instead of the legislative review process.

Thank you,  
Laurie Mead  
47075 Harvard Ave  
Soldotna, Ak 99669  
907-262-1889

**From:** Laurie Mead  
**To:** [Commission, Boundary \(CED sponsored\)](#)  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 27, 2020 6:53:30 AM

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I am requesting the LBC allow the local action option INSTEAD of the Legislative Review process and allow KPB residents the opportunity to vote on this matter.

Laurie Mead  
907-262-1889



Lindsey Wolfe  
36430 Wake Forest Ct.  
Soldotna, AK 99669

October 20, 2020

State of Alaska  
Department of Commerce, Community & Regional Affairs  
Local Boundary Commission  
550 W 7th AVE, STE 1650  
Anchorage, AK 99501-3510

Attn: Commissioners Wood, Harrington, Gallahorn, Trotter and Roberts

RE: City of Soldotna Proposed Annexation

I understand that the commission is wanting comments regarding the motion to move to Local Action election. However, I feel it needs to be noted again that the residents/landowners/business owners within the proposed annexation have repeatedly expressed their opposition to being included within the City of Soldotna. The City uses, in their petition, increasing their population and providing much coveted services as reasons we should embrace annexation into the City. They also state no services will be provided to these areas and to quote the City Manager herself the population will increase by an "estimated 140 people". The 140 increase doesn't even bring them to the population minimum requirement for the City of Soldotna's home rule status.

I want it noted as well that the City of Soldotna took twenty-five (25) days to compile their request letter. That is twenty-five (25) days of lawyers looking into past decisions, statutes to allow them permission around the norm and flat out formulating the request to appeal to the predominately law backgrounds of the commission. I was given 7 calendar days and no lawyer.

The City states in their August 30<sup>th</sup> letter that only two individuals that provided testimony during the public hearing are eligible to vote in a Local Action election. They also stated that these two individuals were in favor of the annexation. While this may be a partially true statement, I do not have access or could not find transcripts from that hearing, it is partially false. In September 2019, the City held a Pre-Submission meeting. There are transcripts available for this meeting. There is sixty-seven (67) pages of testimony by thirty-five (35) community members. Only one (1) testifying of their support for annexation. Of those testifying there were at least four (4) City of Soldotna residents voicing their opposition to the annexation. During the collection of public testimony, and easily accessed through the LBC's website, there are letters from two community members opposing the annexation that are in fact Soldotna residents. I note again that the City of Soldotna only mentioned (and so graciously brought to the commission's attention) the testimonies from the public hearing on August 5<sup>th</sup>. They make no mention of written testimonies, no mention of the community members who testified at the Pre-Submission meeting and no mention of the ongoing years of having this argument with the City.

Why is the City of Soldotna petitioning the commission to remove the motion to convert to Local Action election? Because they know they will lose if it is put to a vote of the people. Yes, even their own citizens, while they may not be compelled enough to testify, a lot of them do not approve of their own cities' actions regarding the annexation. They are hoping you will remove the motion, approve the petition in full and pass it along for Legislative Review. They are hoping that this has drawn out long enough for us in opposition to have either grown tired of fighting or simply forgotten. They are hoping that you will help them to circumvent the wishes of the people and hand them their land grab.

While I would much prefer that the commission simple deny and throw out the City of Soldotna's petition for annexation, if that cannot happen then let the people vote!

Thank you,

Lindsey Wolfe  
wolfeak@acsalaska.net

Robert Wolfe  
36430 Wake Forest Ct.  
Soldotna, AK 99669

October 26, 2020

State of Alaska  
Department of Commerce, Community & Regional Affairs  
Local Boundary Commission  
550 W 7th AVE, STE 1650  
Anchorage, AK 99501-3510

Attn: Commissioners Wood, Harrington, Gallahorn, Trotter and Roberts

RE: City of Soldotna Proposed Annexation

I understand that the commission is wanting comments regarding the motion to move to Local Action election. However, I feel it is almost a lost cause at this time as this has taken so long and been rescheduled so many times that I think very few people will respond. While I am not a resident of the affected area at this time, I am in the process of building a house in area 9 and will be one of just a few new residents of this area. As of right now I would have no voting right because this isn't my residence at this time. Does that mean that my voice shouldn't be heard?? This will affect me, but the city of Soldotna thinks because I can't vote on it that you shouldn't listen to my opinion. There are a lot of people and businesses that are in the areas but could not vote. We should all still be heard, and I think you have heard us. The city of Soldotna used an out of area expert witness in their testimony does that mean he shouldn't be heard?? I think it has been really sad to see this commission use any excuse to postpone this process. It seems that with the exception of one of your members you guys don't seem to understand the people do not want this and it should be thrown out. I also think it's very wrong that the city of Soldotna has been able to have you postpone you voting on this again.

Let's end this nonsense now.

Robert Wolfe  
[rcwolfe3@acsalaska.net](mailto:rcwolfe3@acsalaska.net)

**From:** mosby@alaska.net  
**To:** [Commission, Boundary \(CED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Soldotna Annexation  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 27, 2020 2:45:42 PM

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Article X of the Alaska Constitution is entitled "Local Government" Section one commences with this statement: The purpose of this article is to provide for maximum local self-government with a minimum of of local government units, and to prevent duplication of tax levying jurisdictions.

3AAC.110.981 provides in pertinent part: In determining whether a proposed boundary change promotes maximum self-government under article X, section one, Constitution of the State of Alaska, the commission will consider (8) for city incorporation or annexation in an organized borough whether local government needs cannot be met by the borough on an areawide or nonareawide basis..

With regard to Skyview:

These provisions are not met by the City's Petition. The borough owns this property and over a period in excess of twenty years has built approximately 30 kilometers of trails. The trails are extended and maintained by a single employee. There is no room for further addition of trails. There is no need for the City of Soldotna to annex this borough-owned property which will needlessly cause duplicity of government and cause the city to govern borough property that has been developed and maintained by the borough. The City agrees that this area is not likely to be developed. It is, in fact, already very developed as a trail system and does not need further land use regulations to prevent "sprawl" as the petition claims.

Further, the trails are accessible from two points: the Sterling Highway and K-Beach Road, both of which are state-maintained roads. Skyview is a school of the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District. What possible reason could there be for the City to annex? It is in the jurisdiction of the Alaska State Troopers which are located on the South side of the river whereas the City police are on the North side. The only way to get to Skyview or K Beach South is to cross a bridge. The trooper detachment is located on the South side of K-Beach approximately 1/2 mile from K-Beach South and roughly the same distance from Skyview. It is closer than the Soldotna police for both locations.

With regard to a vote on this petition, it is fair that voters in the areas to be annexed be allowed to vote on the question of annexation. K Beach South would lose trooper protection that is just down the road and not a bridge and several traffic lights away. The petition states that it is intended that all of the areas proposed for annexation be treated as one territory. I support putting this to a vote. At a meeting at Soldotna High School of 30 some people speaking only one supported annexation. At a Zoom meeting I believe in September, the borough mayor stated that he does not support annexation. Submitted by Margaret Moran PO box 317 Kenai, AK 99611

**From:** Blake Mertens  
**To:** [Commission, Boundary \(CED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Forced Annexation of Land in Soldotna/Kenai area  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 27, 2020 1:53:22 PM

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To Whom It May Concern:

I moved to Alaska because my home state become unlawful. The government became so corrupt I feared for the safety of my family and neighbors.

Please hold Alaska to a higher standard.

When I read that the local city of Soldotna is stealing land from residents, I wondered if there is anywhere lawful left in the USA.

You can do better. I would never steal from you, so please don't steal from the citizens.

Sincerely,

Blake Mertens

Funny River Road

October 25, 2020

Boundary Commission

RE: Forced Annexation

This is in response to the City of Soldotna's letter to the Boundary Commission.

At the Public Hearing, held at Soldotna High School on (insert Date here). There were over 100 people in attendance, and of all who testified only two (2) individuals were in favor of forced annexation, these 2 individuals do not live in the affected area. The 2 residents that the city is referring to; that were for the petition in the Zoom Meeting, were once City Officials, and friends of the city council, of those people the city does not know how many of them would be able to vote.

I can say that I have talked to many people that would be able to vote and have not found one person in favor of Annexation.

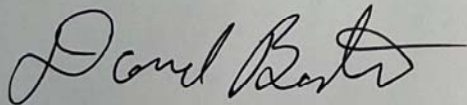
The letter from the City Council has inaccurate information. There were people who spoke at the meeting; who would be eligible to vote, including myself.

I have talked to hundreds of people who live in Soldotna; and the surrounding area, and the over whelming majority of these individuals are against Forced Annexation.

At the end of the last meeting vote was 3 to 2, to let the people vote. Although the number of voters is small, the general opinion of all the people effected in the city, and territory will be represented.

Our constitutional right to vote must not be taken away.

Donald B. Boston

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Donald Boston". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Charles Davis  
44190 Oehler Road  
Soldotna, AK 99669  
907-262-3942

Boundary Commission

[lbc@alaska.gov](mailto:lbc@alaska.gov)

To whom it may concern:

I have lived in the area for over 46 years and sat on the Soldotna city council off and on in the 80's and 90's, so I'm well aware how Municipalities are run. I'm not aware of a "land grab" of this magnitude in the state of Alaska, I'm sure there has been one, but like most people I don't concern myself with what doesn't affect me. In my opinion the city doesn't come to the table with much to offer me as a property owner, other than more restrictions.

Utilities: I have a 200' artesian well that produces more water than I will ever need, I have the best draining soil for leach systems in the state! I will tend to drive out of my way to drive down a much better maintained Borough road.

Police protection: The Alaska state trooper's station is closer to me than the Soldotna police Station.

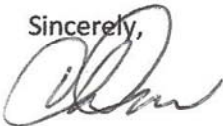
I understand the city's interest in squaring off the city boundary's, but by doing this they create a new "jog" in the Knight drive area (an area that needs city services more than anywhere else), I also understand the city's desire for raw land for future development, however, there is a lot of vacant land East of town on the Sterling Hwy. that's already inside the city limits.

It seems a little unfair for the businesses along the Spur Hwy. affected by this annexation who spent a lot of money to be outside the city limits, only now to be forced into the city.

As for the people outside the city that are on city utilities, "shame on the city", when I was on the council that would never have happened without them first being annexed.

Please do the right thing and give the power back to the people, and let the people affected by this annexation decide on their own future.

Sincerely,



Charles Davis

**From:** LIO Kenai  
**To:** [Commission, Boundary \(CED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Soldotna annexation public testimony  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 27, 2020 2:29:46 PM

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Please enter this public testimony on behalf of Mr. Daniel Lynch (he doesn't have access to a computer).

Thank you,  
MB Byrne  
Kenai LIO  
283-2030

Oct. 27, 2020

Regarding annexation of land by the City of Soldotna

Commissioners,

Democracy, what a concept! One man/woman, one vote. Many countries hope to be us. America, it works. Alaska, it works. City of Soldotna, no go.

They prefer city councils and administrations making all decisions for all people, authoritarian rule.

Residents have not been asked for their approval of the plan to spend time, effort and city taxpayers' money to victimize our neighbors who, for reasons of their own, choose to live outside of city limits, rules, zones, etc.

As new members of the Local Boundary Commission, you may not realize that this effort has been ongoing for the past 10-15 years in one form or another, continually changing the target areas and neighborhoods to be victimized in a divide and conquer mentality, which is the first strategy of warfare.

The City says it will offer services, As a 25-year resident of Soldotna, I know that some services still aren't available to those of us *currently* living inside city limits.

Money is not the problem. The City has twice the amount in reserves that the entire Kenai Peninsula Borough has.

In closing, I offer three options:

First (preferred) - Reject the entire proposal to annex areas around Soldotna.

Second - Postpone the proposal until the pandemic has passed so the LBC can hold public hearings

and view the 9 proposed areas and logistics as per state statute.



Third - Vote. Allow all residents within the current city limits as well as the proposed annexation victims the right to vote on the issue.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Daniel Lynch  
44755 Sterling Hwy  
Soldotna, AK 99669  
(907)262-2570

October 25, 2020

Boundary Commission

Re: Forced Annexation

My name is Eddie Lee. My family owns and operates the 4Royal Parkers Bar, Restaurant, Hotel, and Liquor store in the proposed annexation. I have my finger on the pulse of our community. I talk to hundreds of people from the surrounding area, as well as Soldotna about this Forced Annexation. Virtually no one is for this annexation.

A vote would represent the will of the people. I would have liked to speak at the last couple of meetings, however, they were held in the middle of the work day. It is hard for most people to get the time off to attend these meetings. I was able to attend and speak at the meeting held at the Soldotna High School, because it was on the weekend.

The lines were drawn to eliminate as many residents as possible. That is why it is more important than ever to vote.

The people have a right and ability to vote on something that will impact their lives forever. My family have lived at this location for decades and look forward to casting our votes.

Our country is so divided and in the middle of a pandemic, right now the last thing, we need is for our right to vote be taken away by a handful of city officials.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Eddie Lee', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Eddie Lee

President 4 Royal Parkers, Inc.



## Office of the Borough Mayor

144 N. Binkley Street, Soldotna, Alaska 99669 • (907) 714-2150 • (907) 714-2377 Fax

Charlie Pierce  
Borough Mayor

October 27, 2020

Mr. Larry Wood, Chair  
State of Alaska, Local Boundary Commission  
c/o Jed Smith, Local Government Specialist  
550 W. 7<sup>th</sup> Ave., Suite 1650  
Anchorage AK 99501

Re: City of Soldotna Annexation Petition

Dear Mr. Wood:

Responding to the Local Boundary Commission's request for additional comment on the issue of a local option petition, the Kenai Peninsula Borough restates its previous position supporting local option.

On September 4, 2018 the Borough Assembly passed Resolution 2018-036 opposing the City of Soldotna's plan to annex and asking the city to seek voter approval. The assembly resolution stated that the question of whether adjacent property should be included in a municipal boundary is an important issue directly affecting current city residents and residents proposed to be included in the city. Many residents have intentionally chosen to reside outside of the City of Soldotna for their own reasons, some of whom have invested substantial funds and hard work in their property. These residents deserve the opportunity to vote on this important issue. The affected residents of the city and the areas proposed to be annexed are Borough residents, a number of whom have testified before the assembly in opposition to the annexation process bypassing voter approval.

As mayor, I too support a local option on question of annexation. As stated by the assembly, the many residents both within the city and within the territory deserve the opportunity to vote on such an important issue.

Sincerely,

Charlie Pierce  
Mayor

w/Enclosure

Introduced by: Mayor, Blakeley  
Date: 09/04/18  
Action: Adopted  
Vote: 5 Yes, 4 No, 0 Absent

**KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH  
RESOLUTION 2018-036**

**A RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE CITY OF SOLDOTNA PLAN TO ANNEX  
ADJACENT PROPERTY WITHOUT SEEKING VOTER APPROVAL**

- WHEREAS,** the City of Soldotna (“City”) began meeting with interested stakeholders and collecting information about potentially changing its boundaries by annexing adjacent property in 2014; and
- WHEREAS,** the City had a fiscal impact analysis prepared evaluating the cost of delivering city services to areas near the existing City limits and estimating the overall fiscal effect on the City of annexing certain additional areas into the City; and
- WHEREAS,** the City hired The Athena Group, a consulting agency, to design and facilitate a process for public communication about the proposed annexation; and
- WHEREAS,** the City and The Athena Group held numerous meetings providing opportunities for the public to obtain information about, and provide input on, the issues surrounding annexation and delivery of city services inside and outside the City’s current boundaries in 2017; and
- WHEREAS,** in its final report to the City Council, The Athena Group indicated that community engagement in the annexation process was low, the vocal and passionate opposition to annexation appeared to be a powerful influence on the community at large, that if the City decides to pursue annexation distrust may grow further, and proposed options to limit negative impacts including only annexing areas that garner the most support, creating a process before the formal annexation petition to allow all affected residents, property owners, and businesses to “vote”, or retain annexation as a possible future strategy for managing growth; and
- WHEREAS,** state law provides that a municipality may legally annex property through either the legislative review process or with voter approval; and
- WHEREAS,** the City Council recently approved Substitute Resolution 2018-013 which directs the City Administration to prepare a draft petition for annexation of seven areas according to the policies and procedures of the Local Boundary Commission for Annexation by Legislative Review, which would not allow the residents to vote on this issue; and

**WHEREAS,** the question of whether adjacent property should be included in a municipal boundary is an important issue directly affecting current City residents and residents proposed to be included in the city; and

**WHEREAS,** many residents have intentionally chosen to reside outside of the City for their own reasons, some of whom have invested substantial funds and hard work in their property, and deserve the opportunity to vote on this important issue; and

**WHEREAS,** the affected residents of the city and the areas proposed to be annexed are all also borough residents, a number of whom have testified before the assembly in opposition to the annexation process of bypassing voter approval, asking the borough to weigh in on the proposed annexation and on the importance of allowing voters to approve the annexation;


**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH:**

**SECTION 1.** That the assembly of the Kenai Peninsula Borough opposes the City of Soldotna's proposed annexation for the reason that it has chosen to follow the process that excludes voter approval and respectfully encourages the City Council to seek voter approval on this issue.

**SECTION 2.** That copies of this resolution shall be sent to Mayor Nels Anderson, Soldotna City Council members Paul Whitney, Tyson Cox, Vice Mayor Linda Murphy, Tim Cashman and Lisa Parker.

**SECTION 3.** That this resolution takes effect immediately upon its adoption.

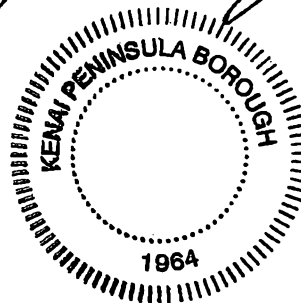
**ADOPTED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH THIS 4TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2018.**

  
Wayne H. Ogle, Assembly President

ATTEST:

  
Johni Blankenship, MMC, Borough Clerk

Yes: Blakeley, Carpenter, Cooper, Fischer, Ogle  
No: Bagley, Dunne, Hibbert, Smalley  
Absent: None



**From:** Mitch Michaud  
**To:** [Commission, Boundary \(CED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** City of Soldotna Annexation Petition Comments for Suspension of the Regulatory Process .  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 27, 2020 2:10:08 PM

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My name is Mitch (Mitchell) Michaud. I reside at 43973 Shirley Way, which is located in one of the annexation areas.

I would like to repeat that I am very much in favor of annexation as I have stated in my past comments, both in person, on line and in your virtual meetings.

For the same reasons.

Betterment of the city of Soldotna affording them with a stable land base with an increased tax base as well as the economies of scale derived by adjacency.

For the myself and other landowners

1. A decrease in property tax rate
2. Increased public safety. This applies only police patrols and protection  
17 Soldotna staff on patrol vs. 6 for the State Troopers for the borough
3. Greater treatment of snow and icy roads and the decline of Borough road maintenance.
4. Ability to participate in local government and the sense of place that goes with being in a first class city.
5. Contributing to the support of city economic and public infrastructure as part of a tax paying citizen.

My greatest concern is with the lack of action by the boundary commission in not assuming its duties in taking action with the intent of the regulations set forth by the State of Alaska.

If the founders of the state of Alaska had wanted to have the decision of boundaries being done by a true democracy they would have said so. In the last two public session the reasons for this were made very clear.

Very few people will look at the aspects of annexation from a community point of view. If asked most people will say no to another level of government and oversight. Even if the long term benefits outweigh the short needs of the individual.

A final argument for not going with a "town hall" approach to this is the case it sets for future annexations. Even greater concern is the leaving or excising from a boundary based on public vote.

Case in point is the past interest in Nikiski areas desiring to cede from the Kenai Peninsula Borough due to the lack of services and unfair distribution of tax dollars. This would pose a severe stain on the Boroughs Tax, by losing the oil patch infrastructure. Another disenfranchised group is the Village of Tyonek. With current and future mineral, oil and energy developments plan, they may be best served by the Mat-Su Borough. They call themselves the West Bank, due to the feelings of being

occupied by an outside entity.

If there were a case for the Commission to make a decision now, it would be that it sets the case for future public vote decisions and removing the responsibilities you have been granted.

If a vote were to happen, it should include the residents of the City of Soldotna since some of the non resident and non annexed areas claim would be too costly for the city.

Beware of the law of unintended consequences.

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10



34276 Business Park Frontage Rd.  
SOLDOTNA, ALASKA  
907-262-6370 fax - 907-262-6372  
gamasdesigns@yahoo.com

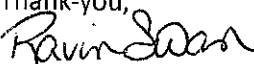
October 26, 2020

Dear Local Boundary Commission,

I am totally opposed to the City of Soldotna annexing surrounding areas without the vote of the affected people. As a small business owner of 25 years, 19 of those years were in Soldotna. After many years of hard work, I was able to purchase land and a building for my business. I specifically chose to be outside of Soldotna City limits.

While conducting business in the City Limits, I was mandated to work with the many different City of Soldotna Departments. Being forced to comply with the many rules, regulations, and permits required by Utility, Signage, Planning and Zoning, and Sales Tax was just another hinderance to operating a competitive business. The City of Soldotna has nothing to offer me that would improve my business, yet I would have to charge my customers an additional 3% sales tax and be subject to the above said rules and regulations that would adversely affect my business.

I am now located in the K-Beach Business Corridor, one of the areas that was targeted for annexation. As mentioned, I am totally against this. I would like to ask the Local Boundary Commission to deny the City of Soldotna's intended annexation or, at the very least, let it go to the vote of the affected landowners

Thank-you,  
  
Ravin Swan - owner



Hello Mr. Smith,

I want the city of Soldotna to approve the city of Soldotna's original petition to annex 2.63 square miles of territory bordering existing city limits. Commissioner Lance Robert's motion to convert the petition from legislative review to local option is unprecedented move and is not in the best interest of the city or the local area.

The commission is not acting responsible as it sets a precedent in the borough. This will have long-term ramifications. We need to look at the long term and see the benefits to all the individuals within these areas. The services that are available are beneficial to the areas within the 2.63 square miles.

I have lived on the peninsula since 1978 and in Soldotna since 2001, and this issue has been discussed for many years in the City of Soldotna. The services that are provided to the community benefit all the residents in our area.

I am very concerned that the city has done due diligence and has followed proper protocols as the original Commissioners approved this petition; yet, a new appointed Commission has changed the final decision without any viable reasoning.

Thank you very much for doing the right thing and approving the petition as it was originally approved by the previous Commissioners.

Penny Vadla, Soldotna resident

October 27, 2020  
Dear LBC Commissioners,

My public comment is in direct response to that of the City of Soldotna's latest submission disputing an amendment on the floor to the annexation petition which implements a change from "legislative review" to "public option". I support the public option, a vote of the people, because it is aligned with the Alaska Constitution and lies in harmony with the entire Alaska Constitution. The Legislative Review does not.

My attachment is the **Alaska Constitution Introduction** written by John B. "Jack" Coghill, Convention Delegate and former Senator and Lieutenant Governor. On the attachment, I took the liberty to underline comments that should be near and dear to the hearts of all Alaskans. This comment is as stated, "... It is your guarantee that the Individual will always be in charge. ... we each sought to create a document that was powerful and personal. Please read it and understand it's continuing dedication to you as the governor, not the governed."

The **Alaska Constitution Preamble** also mentions the importance of "... securing and transmitting to succeeding generations our heritage of political, civil, and religious liberty ...". Again this is a reference to the purpose of government which is to secure the rights of the people as stated in the Declaration of Independence. The preamble in its entirety is stated as follows: "*We the people of Alaska, grateful to God and to those who founded our nation and pioneered this great land, in order to secure and transmit to succeeding generations our heritage of political, civil, and religious liberty within the Union of States, do ordain and establish this constitution for the State of Alaska.*"

The **Alaska Constitution Article 1 Declaration of Rights**. I believe this Article is number one for a reason. There is no other part that is of more importance. It supports all of what Delegate Jack Coghill was stating.

**Section 1 "§ 1. Inherent Rights** – *This constitution is dedicated to the principles that all persons have a natural right to life, liberty, the pursuit of happiness, and the enjoyment of the rewards of their own industry; that all persons are equal and entitled to equal rights, opportunities, and protection under the law; and that all persons have corresponding obligations to the people and to the State.*"

Please note that "the pursuit of happiness, and the enjoyment of the rewards of their own industry" encompasses property and property rights without the intrusion of government defining, mandating or dictating what this means and how it should best be applied without the consent of the people.

**Section 2 "§ 2. Source of Government** - All political power is inherent in the people. All government originates with the people, is founded upon their will only, and is instituted solely for the good of the people as a whole."

Critical! "All political power. "All government originates with the people, is founded upon their will "only", and is instituted solely for the good of the people as a whole." This cannot be anymore clear. What ever "the people originates and decide on" must be for the good of the people as a whole.

The City originated the petition and the City wants to implement their plan without the involvement of the people. This is so wrong on so many accounts. The City brings up tradition. Through my studies and experience, the "tradition" they speak of referencing legislative review has come about because the people had no other choice. Most of what went on in government pre-internet/social media, the people normally heard about or read about after the fact. If they did hear about it, it was difficult to oppose without investing a lot of time and resources which most Alaskans did and still do not have a lot of in excess. Communications up until about five to ten years ago was extremely limited and difficult. The government has always had the upper hand.

The reason Soldotna has not grown as a City is because of the "Mandatory Borough Act of 1963". The people have no desire for another lower level of government when they already have one that was "forced" upon them against their will. Pardon me for saying, but if anyone does their homework and studies some history, you will see that this Act was criminal against the people. They did not want it. I speak to people today who remember it well. I have heard nothing positive about it except from the Architect who designed it and admitted trickery was used. Those are the words spoken to the Local Boundary Commission and recorded for archives. I do not think the LBC wants to follow that path but instead go back to the Alaska Constitution as intended.

"A long habit of not thinking a thing to be wrong gives it the superficial appearance of being right." ~ Thomas Payne 1775  
These are brilliant words to learn by.

This petition belongs to the people and they have not been apart of the process except to sacrifice their time, treasure and emotions for the majority to say, they do not want it. All the while, those who are wanting to enforce this, are on the government payroll being paid to work against the will of the people. For those that have not spoken or submitted public comment as though they are not interested, they will have their chance to speak with a vote. I have found that most of the time public comments are ignored and only conducted because it is apart of the process. This well used practice is wrong.

I commend all of you to uphold your oath of office and ensure that this process evolves the people who will be directly affected and intended by the framers of the Alaska Constitution.

Respectfully,  
Pamela Goode