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Commission, Boundary (CED sponsored)

From: John Hoag [jhoag@snyderandhoagllc.com]
To: Commission, Boundary (CED sponsored)
Cc:
Subject: Proposed Petersburg Borough
Attachments:  [PB 10 20 11 ltr to LBC.doc.pdf\(67KB\)](#)

Sent: Thu 10/20/2011 3:39 PM

Folks. Please find my comments attached.

R E C E I V E D
OCT 20 2011
Local Boundary Commission

REC'D OCT 20 2011

P.O. Box 1796
Petersburg, AK 99833
October 20, 2010

Local Boundary Commission
Via e mail
Anchorage, AK 99501

Re: Petersburg Borough

Dear Commission Members,

I am a fairly recent resident of the City of Petersburg having moved here in 2006, but it is my observation that the petition for Petersburg to form a borough meets the statutory criteria and should be approved.

First, the incorporation of the borough is in the best interest of the state. It promotes maximum self government for those Alaska residents who reside outside the City of Petersburg and currently have no say in decisions that are made that affect them. It promotes a minimum number of local government units for this area. It will relieve the state from providing such services as home schooling without charge. 3 AAC 110.065.

Second, I have not heard any argument that the proposed borough does not easily meet the criteria of AS 29.05.031 and 3 AAC 110.055 as the borough will have the ability to effectively function as a government entity. I have reviewed the financial condition of the City of Petersburg. Its audit from last fiscal year shows a 40% general fund reserve. Contrary to the fears of some of the residents in the currently unincorporated area, the purpose of the borough formation is not to tax them at the current city rate.

Third, Petersburg's economy is driven by the fishing industry. The proposed borough boundaries are consistent with the traditional fishing grounds of the local fleet. I am told that Petersburg tenders regularly stay in and around Frederick Sound all of the way north to the edge of Juneau.

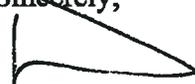
Fourth, the residents of the currently unincorporated area depend on Petersburg for their economic needs. Many of them commute on a daily basis to work in Petersburg. It is not uncommon for them to rent an apartment in town when their children reach high school age and enroll those children in Petersburg schools with no charge to them.

Last, it seems that comments upon Juneau's recent decision to try to extend its borough boundaries further south to include part of the area that Petersburg seeks to include are necessary. If Juneau's proposed expansion made good municipal planning then why didn't Juneau do so years ago? This appears to be all about the Gold Belt operations which Juneau would want to tax. The area in question has been fished by the Petersburg fleet for generations according to the old timers. The few residents up there look to Petersburg for their economic needs. I am told that Petersburg EMS has been a first

responder to disasters in that area. For all of these reasons, and probably others, the boundaries proposed by the Petersburg borough seem to best fit the statutory criteria for adoption and not those recently requested by Juneau only after Petersburg's petition was filed.

I hope that you approve the Petersburg borough formation so that the residents of the proposed borough can vote as to whether the borough should exist.

Sincerely,



John Hoag