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Commission, Boundary (CED sponsored)

From: Ione and Bob Lynn [iblynn@alpineclimbs.com]
To: Commission, Boundary (CED sponsored)
Cc:
Subject: Ione Lynn comments on Petersburg's petition
Attachments:  [Ione's petition comments.doc\(42KB\)](#)

Sent: Tue 10/25/2011 3:25 PM

Comments attached on Petersburg's borough petition.

RECEIVED
OCT 25 2011
Local Boundary Commission

Local Boundary Commission Staff
550 West Seventh Avenue
Suite 1770
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-3510

Dear Sirs:

In the 1980's I lived in the City of Petersburg. Our children attended Petersburg schools, which were excellent. My husband and I were strong supporters of the schools, city government as well as social activities.

After our retirement we returned to the Petersburg area, not to live in the city but to make our home in Duncan Canal. We chose a lifestyle much different from that in the Petersburg City community. It is an independent lifestyle, one that does not depend upon ready-made, store-bought items. We built our own home and provide our own electric and water systems.

We plan travel to Petersburg once a week. However, that travel depends upon tides and weather conditions. Sometimes a month passes before we make the trip. Our means of transportation and communication are much different than if we lived in Petersburg.

Our main mode of transportation is by boat, 25 miles from Petersburg. Our land transportation is by truck 12 miles from Petersburg. We use a booster system to receive radio service. We communicate with neighbors by VHF. (VHF does not reach the City of Petersburg from our home.) There is no phone communication. Until recently we had no access to internet. We depend on ourselves or neighbors in case of medical emergencies. Our social activities are with neighbors who also live outside Petersburg.

The Petersburg Borough Petition must meet several criteria for incorporation of a borough. One of these points states that there are: Land, water and air transportation facilities which allow the communication and exchange for the development of integrated borough government.

When traveling to Petersburg, or any place else, we first go by skiff and then by a 22 foot boat which is anchored out. Then we travel either to Petersburg by boat or to Papkes Landing by boat to get our truck for the 12 mile trip to town. Before we travel, we check the tide and monitor the weather closely by VHF. We then travel from our home in Duncan Canal north in the Wrangell Narrows. There are times that water conditions dictate that we do not leave home.

An example is medical appointments. As with any meeting, whether governmental, social, dental or medical, the appointment date is made ahead of time. I have not made it to medical appointments because of bad water conditions or fog in Duncan Canal, and I could not communicate with them that I would not make the appointment.

According to the New Oxford American Dictionary the definition of communication is a means of connection between people and places; a means of sending or receiving information.

With no phone service, VHF that does not reach Petersburg and water conditions that do not allow travel, I cannot, nor can my neighbors who live out, travel to Petersburg to take part in government activities.

Although I now have access to internet services and can communicate as a sender and receiver of some information, the transmission speed of our internet is not adequate to connect to on-line meetings. Therefore, I still cannot take part in government or other meetings in Petersburg.

Other factors that interfere with taking part in activities and meetings are the diminishing day light hours of fall and winter. Since most government activities are in the evening, the chances of my attending are slim. My travel to and from Petersburg is limited to hours between 9 am and 2 pm. After 2 pm I am traveling home in the dark when water conditions become dangerous because of unseen logs, boats, rocks, etc. Even with the longer summer daylight hours water conditions dictate travel.

Once again I refer to the New Oxford American Dictionary. A definition of *integrated* is combining one thing with another to become a whole; bringing into *equal participation* in or membership of society, or an institution or body.

The Petersburg Petition infers that there are land, water and other means of transportation to allow communication between those living out and with the population in the current town of Petersburg. In my experience from living out, this is not so. If I, and my neighbors and those who live out in the northern portions of the proposed borough, cannot travel because of distance or water conditions; or lack other means of receiving and sending communications, how then can we become *integrated* into the borough? Can we combine with Petersburg to become a whole? Can we *equally participate* to govern this large proposed borough?

I believe that we cannot. I therefore ask that you deny the current petition as written.

Sincerely,

s/ Ione Lynn
Ione B. Lynn
Duncan Canal