

From: [Doris Greif](#)
To: [Commission, Boundary \(CED sponsored\)](#)
Subject: Correction 3AAC110.480.(d) Supporting Edna Bay as a second class city.
Date: Sunday, November 17, 2013 9:59:54 PM

The population of Edna Bay has been stable for many years.(Sec.29.05.011(4)(5)(d). The State of Alaska and Mental Health have sold 4 lots in the last 2 years. In the private sector 3 lots have been sold. There are currently 6 new homes being built. Our population is growing, making greater demands on our infrastructure. It is imperative, at this time because of increased growth, that we become a municipality with legal recognition with the State of Alaska and federal government.

With growth comes issues such as: refuse disposal, dock space for the fishing fleet, year round fuel supply, deteriorating roads and bridges. If we become a second class city we will be able to apply for grants and matching funds from different state and federal agencies that will help us address these growing needs.

When Mental Health acquired property from the state of Alaska from the community of Edna Bay the state did not allow for Sec.29.05.011(2) which states: "the boundaries of the proposed city include all area necessary to provide municipal services on an efficient scale". We currently do not have land available for an industrial site, a place to take care of our refuse, a place to build a community building where we can all come together for meetings nor can we acquire ownership of our road system.(Sec29.35.030(a)Eminent Domain)

We set our boundaries on established section lines to limit cost and time for surveying. We included Survey Creek within our boundaries for our proposed low-head hydro generator facility.

We have self-governed ourselves successfully for over 30 years with the majority of the population being proactive in our 501(C)(3) corporation. It is now time for our community to step up to state and federal agencies in a legal and responsible relationship. This is our goal and we believe we can attain this goal by becoming a second class city.

We thank you for your time and consideration of this matter,

Petitioner E. Lee Greif

Carleigh Fairchild
203 W. Davidson
Edna Bay, AK 99950
907-594-6301
crfairchild@yahoo.com

November 19, 2013

Dear Commissioners,

I am a new member of the Edna Bay Community and I am writing you today to express my support for the municipal transition of Edna Bay Community to Second Class City.

As a new member of this Community, I see the Community Officers, committee leaders, and task force leaders conducting business in an orderly and responsible manner. They are maintaining the roads, the dock, and emergency medical services to the best of their current legal ability. However, to replace the four temporary log bridges that were put in over 20 years ago, enter a formal dock maintenance agreement with the Alaska DOT for the current dock, and to get the founding to replace an old dock to support the growing needs of the community they need to have the expanded legal authority that being a Second Class City will provide.

Another benefit for the Edna Bay Community becoming a Second Class City is that it will be able to govern, maintain, and expand itself more efficiently. Being an isolated community I feel this is important as a potential neighboring borough will not be able to effectively identify and manage the needs of the residents here. Here in Edna Bay the residents want to expand the infrastructure and are in the process of getting a Bulk Fuel Tank Farm, investigating a Hydro Electric Power Plant, and in the future want a Waste Management Program.

I also understand that it is a benefit to the State of Alaska for the Edna Bay Community to become a Second Class City in that it supports the State Constitution's principle of maximum self-government with minimal governmental units.

For the above reasons I feel the transition to Second Class City is vital for the Community. I strongly believe that there is the necessary capacity in this Community to transition to, maintain, and thrive as a Second Class City.

I send my thanks to the LBC for their assistance in working through this process.

Sincerely,
Carleigh Fairchild

Tyler M. Poelstra

203 W. Davidson
Edna Bay, AK 99950
907-594-6301
tylerpoelstra@hotmail.com

November 18, 2013

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing you today to express my support for the municipal transition of Edna Bay Community to Second Class City.

I feel strongly that this transition is both necessary and in the best interest of the residents of my area, and the State of Alaska. It is both to the benefit of the State and local residents in that it supports the State Constitution's principal of maximum self government with minimal governmental units. I believe firmly that my community has the necessary capacity to both maintain and succeed at transitioning to and operating as a Second Class City.

We have shown a distinct ability to conduct orderly and responsible activity in all areas of business for which we are currently operating. These efforts have been fruitful to this point through careful oversight, management and coordination with State, Federal, and local entities. However, despite these dedicated efforts by a panel of volunteers that continue to operate in the best interests and at the behest of our Community members, we are reaching limits in our ability to maintain prospects for a successful future or promise of growth and sustainability for our Community.

A large cause of concern for our residents and an issue that cannot be resolved in our currently legal status is the issue of road and dock infrastructure expansion, management, and maintenance. We cannot resolve funding, easement, or expansion conflicts without the minimum legal status of Second Class City. In addition, we are facing challenges developing essential services like Bulk Fuel due to current legal limitations.

I also feel that Edna Bay is in a unique position to benefit from this transition more than most due to our isolated location that restricts other governmental units from effectively assisting us with these and many other challenges we to continue face.

I send my thanks to the LBC for their assistance in working through this process.

Sincerely,

Tyler Poelstra

Nov. 18, 2013

Gentlemen,

Please accept my comments regarding the petition to grant the community of Edna Bay second class city status.

Let me begin by stating that my name is John Besse and I have been a part-time (approx. 6 months per year) resident of Edna Bay for the last 3 years. Since May 2013 I have made Edna Bay my permanent home.

I am aware that the proposal to make Edna Bay a second class city has aroused much controversy among members of the community. I do not wish to take a position on the desirability of second class city status at this time and hope that my comments will not be viewed as partisan. They are intended merely as objective observations. I will confine my comments to statements made in the petition submitted, and the degree to which the petition addresses the standards for second class city status.

In reviewing Section 7 of the petition, which addresses reasons for incorporation, the basic rationale appears to be that:

1. The community needs to have local control of the road system, harbor, and other facilities yet to be developed such as a landfill and fuel facility. Without second class city status improvements cannot be made.
2. Second class city status will allow Edna Bay access to additional sources of Government funding for improvements to and maintenance of community infrastructure.

While the above may be true, these are merely unsubstantiated claims which are being made by the petitioners without any form of verification. It would seem that, in the case of signed and notarized submittals to a Government agency, key statements contained therein should not simply be taken at face value. Supporting documentation for all evidence submitted in the form of letters from the agencies involved should be required. As a general example, if the road system cannot be improved because the community does not control the right-of-way, documentation to that effect, from the agencies involved, (DOT, USFS etc.) should be provided.

In Section 23 of the petition, the supporting brief which addresses the standards:

- B. A Reasonable need for local self-government exists in the community.

This section of the petition presents a continuation and elaboration of the statements contained in Section 7. Again there is no supporting documentation included. While the statements made may be quite true, documentation from the agencies referred to should accompany the petition.

D&E. The proposed city has the financial and human resources necessary to support a government and necessary services.

This section of the petition seems to exaggerate the number of actual businesses that exist in Edna Bay as well as the population. This is another area where documentation is needed. The petition claims that the community is growing steadily with a current population is 58 persons. Official census data for Edna Bay is available from 1990 to 2010 which shows that the population declined by 51.2% over that period and that the official number of residents in 2010 was 42. Establishing population figures year to year in Edna Bay is difficult as there is a significant turnover in residents with people coming and leaving often. However it appears to me that rather than growing in population, Edna bay seems to be in a persistent downward trend. I would estimate the number of people actually living here currently to be in the mid 30's. In fact, barring an influx of new children, the community stands to lose it's school next year.

In closing I would simply like to state that, regardless of the merits of second class city status, the petition is deficient in the present form and should be returned to the petitioners for revision and resubmittal. The Boundary Commission cannot make an informed decision or determine Edna Bay's qualifications to be a second class city absent proper documentation to support the evidence submitted in the petition.

Sincerely,

John Besse

From: [Becky Crew](#)
To: [Commission, Boundary \(CED sponsored\)](#)
Date: Wednesday, November 20, 2013 12:49:21 PM

Commissioners:

I moved to Edna Bay with my family 11 years ago. We live here because of the way of life that cannot be had in a town or city. I am 26 years old and I am working towards having a lot and a home in Edna Bay of my own. I am a part owner and partner of a business here in Edna Bay.

I do not support a change to second class city status in Edna Bay.

I am against Edna Bay becoming a 2nd Class city because I believe that at this time the community is unable to support the infrastructure of being a 2nd Class city. It appears to me from reading the petition that the petitioners are planning to run the 2nd Class city system solely on Federal and State monies.

I believe that individuals who moved to Edna Bay and left again did not leave here because of lack of dock repair, a poorly maintained road system, no refuse system or the difficulty of bringing in fuel. They left because of either the isolation or the lack of work.

The community has maintained an EMS and Fire Department over the years and we have never received more the 2 or 3 calls for EMS per year, and to my knowledge never needed the Fire Dept. The AEA is funding a fuel tank farm, DOT has funded and is scheduling the repair of the harbor, neither of which requires 2nd Class city status. And there are other places to get a refuse disposal and road repair.

The city planning and the zoning that goes with 2nd Class city in this community will determine whether or not a business is allowed to start up, even to what kind of business that you can have. The way we are now allows us to find and make work for ourselves much easier. Future residents will find it harder to make a living here under a 2nd Class city.

Respectfully,

Becky Crew

From: [Benjamin Crew](#)
To: [Commission, Boundary \(CED sponsored\)](#)
Subject: Comments on Edna Bay becoming a second class city
Date: Wednesday, November 20, 2013 3:55:53 PM

To whom it may concern, as a small business owner looking to move my family and business from Sitka to Edna Bay within the next 12 months, I strongly oppose Edna Bay becoming a second class city at this time. Edna Bay currently has less than 50 year round residents and its population has been declining for years. Until the community begins to show signs of steady growth I believe it would be a mistake to transition into a more complicated form of government that would burden the limited number of residents and leaders in more ways than it would help them.

A certain part of my decision to make Edna Bay my home in the near future is based on the simple self sufficient lifestyle that can be afforded there. I feel that becoming a second class city would lessen that appeal for me. The form of government currently in place serves all of the communities needs as well as any other would.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my concerns.

Ben Crew
Crew Enterprises
crewent@alaska.net
Office 907-747-2955
Fax 907-747-2956
Cell 907-738-2722

From: [Jere Crew](#)
To: [Commission, Boundary \(CED sponsored\)](#)
Subject: comment second class city status Edna Bay
Date: Wednesday, November 20, 2013 11:45:32 AM

Dear Commissioners,

We have lived in Edna Bay for over 10 years, choosing Edna bay because of it's unique, and alternate way of life.

As owners of Crew Lumber and Logging, Island Marine Transport and Stick and Stone Construction LLC we want to make it plain that we do not have any interest in, or commitment to, sustaining a city government.

We do not support the petition for Second class City status for Edna Bay

The population of Edna Bay has not changed noticeably from the 42 residents as stated in the 2010 census with a median age of 53 as compared to 36 in all of Alaska. We are not a growing community, according to the census we are declining. We are definitely growing older. The Edna Bay school since re-opening 5 years ago has been struggling and will not open in the fall unless there are more children.

The population of Edna Bay is in constant flux, approximately 30 people moved to Edna Bay in the last 5 years and have moved away mainly for lack of work. We are hoping that the 5 new landowners currently building will be able to stick it out.

According to the Denali commission Edna Bay is a "distressed" community as relates to income and employment. Making a living in Edna Bay, as in many remote locations, is not easy, but we live here because we like it. The local business as listed in the petition may be misleading. In reality they are all in 3 of the 18 households, mainly because it is necessary to diversify in order to make a living. Many in Edna Bay rely heavily on a subsistence lifestyle to supplement a small income and can live here with dignity.

We do not believe that our community has the financial resources to support a city.

It takes an imagination and hard work to live here. Besides the school which employs 2 or 3 locals there are no jobs available, a resident must create their own work. Any person enterprising enough to move here and start a business can do so now as long as their activities are legal. It seems that the petitioners stated purpose of "planning and directing growth" and "separating various sorts of land use" would increase the already challenging prospects surviving in Edna Bay.

In conclusion Edna Bay represents a way of life not easily found anymore. Even though it can be difficult in many ways, it is very rewarding.

A friend who once lived here said it very well:

What draws me back to Edna Bay is because it isn't a city. The world gets more expensive to survive in every year. Poverty is not necessarily how little money you have but the lack of choices one has. Why not leave Edna Bay the way its been from the beginning, an alternate way to live. Live on little or alot its up to each person. Places like Edna Bay become fewer and fewer.

Jere and Sue Crew

crewlumber@hotmail.com

"Choose a job you love and you will never have to work a day in your life." Confucius

Crew Lumber
PO Box EDB
Edna Bay, Alaska 99950
907-594-6109

Personal Use Lumber - Custom Milling - Bevel Siding, Logging - Tug and Barge freight and transport

From: [robin.crew](#)
To: [Commission, Boundary \(CED sponsored\)](#)
Date: Wednesday, November 20, 2013 11:46:00 AM

Commissioners:

Regarding the petition for Second class city in Edna Bay:

I came to Edna Bay 5 years ago because I was attracted by the unique lifestyle possible here. I have bought a lot and built a home and am happy here with life as it is.

I do not support second class city status for Edna Bay.

I do not believe that there are enough people living here to support a city. I do not believe that the people who are here have the economic resources to support a city.

I believe that the economic and planning/zoning demands of a city structure will force some of the people who now reside in Edna Bay out of their homes, and will actually make it more difficult to make a living for future residents.

I can not think of anyone who moved to Edna Bay and left who left because the roads and docks were inadequate, or because fuel was hard to get or because they had no place to dispose of their garbage. People who move here and leave do so because of the isolation and/or the difficulty of making a living.

It appears from reading the petition that the City of Edna Bay plans to finance it's infrastructure entirely on monies from the state and federal governments, looking for other sources of revenue only as a last resort when all other options are exhausted. I don't believe that this is in the best interest of the State of Alaska.

Respectfully,

Robin Crew

From: [Randy Hoffmann](#)
To: [Commission, Boundary \(CED sponsored\)](#)
Subject: Edna Bay Second Class City
Date: Wednesday, November 20, 2013 12:22:23 PM

Hello,

My name is Randy Hoffmann, I've lived in Edna Bay about four years ago and plan to move back next year. The idea of making Edna Bay a second class city doesn't work for me. Places like Edna Bay are becoming fewer, places of refuge. Yes a refuge! What I like about the community is because there isn't a person telling me that I have to save certain trees or pay a tax to plow the roads in winter, or have to pay for electricity when I don't use any. Hell, here in Calif. in the City of Redding the sewer fee each month is 40 dollars. The city is the utility too. If your broke and can't pay your utility bill and its turned off, you can't live in your own home. Yes you will be evicted!

The majority of people drawn to Edna Bay," like Edna Bay as it is! " If I wanted electricity, sewage, and politics of city planning I move to Craig. Many folks want and need what a city offers. I want what Edna Bay has Now! Not what a second class city offers. A place like Edna Bay is essential for people like me with low income. To live with dignity and have options to travel, put food on the table and heat my home cheaply! My way isn't every one but everyone in Edna Bay want to preserve its way of life, As it is now. Making it a second class city doesn't preserve it, but seeds the future for changed we really don't want.

If and when families can move to Edna Bay and make an income that can support a city, then fine do it. But any city, with as few of people who live in Edna Bay, can't be sustained. Does Alaska want to be the only real source of money or does Alaska want to keep a way of life that brought us here. Keep Edna Bay like it is. Its small with few people. The ones who think that a Second Class City is the best option does so because they fear the future. A few want to take control where most wants to just live and enjoy what Edna Bay is now.....

Please reject this petition on the following grounds;

1. Not enough people in the bay to support a town.
2. No income on the island, ie jobs.
3. Expense of another city that the state of Alaska doesn't need.
4. Keep it as it is so people with low incomes can live with dignity.

In conclusion: The spirit that made the great State of Alaska, is alive and well in Edna Bay. Self reliance and hard work, living life with few resouces and extreme weather. Living big. Big as to self pride and self determination.

Thank You, Randy Hoffmann

November 19, 2013

Local Boundary Commission staff
550 West Seventh Avenue, Suite 1640
Anchorage, AK 99501-3510

Re: Edna Bay Second Class City Incorporation

Dear LBC Staff,

I am writing today in support of the Edna Bay Petition for incorporation as a second class city. This legal transition represents a critical juncture for Edna Bay Community. Many years of concerted effort have culminated in the request for incorporation you now have before you.

During the past decade, we have been committed to working diligently with various State agencies to address maintenance and replacement of aging infrastructure that are quickly becoming safety and quality of life issues for residents. At every turn, we are brought to a standstill by the requirement for a municipal government status which would allow us to establish site control, enter into necessary contracts for maintenance, or meet mandatory conditions to apply for funding to address the needs of our community. Many times we have been advised by these agencies of the advantages and opportunities that would be available to us as an incorporated entity.

For Edna Bay, this petition represents a pivotal bridge to the future. While Southeast Alaska has seen a steady decline in population over the past decade, in recent years our community has seen an increase in investment and development, with six new home sites currently under construction. An enhanced government status will enable us to support and manage growth.

We are well aware of the feasibility study and inevitable incorporation of the Prince of Wales Borough. Although this step may support many long term solutions for providing services to the main island of Prince of Wales, it will not adequately address nor efficiently provide for the future needs of our isolated community.

Our remote geographic location represents a case in point for the concept the constitutional framers intended to address by creating a system of local government that would be flexible enough to meet the desire for local control as well as the need to realize economies of scale through regional organization. The fact that Alaska currently has 112 second class cities with populations ranging between 6,080 and 12 validates the purposeful function of this design.

Edna Bay clearly demonstrates the need for the ideals put forth in Article X of the constitution; to provide for maximum self-government with a minimum of local government units. There is no existing governmental entity other than our own that can provide for the growing needs of our community. The circumstances presented in our petition and outlined in 3AAC 110.010 provide justification for this legal transition.

Edna Bay Community's continued perseverance over the past 30 years should adequately substantiate our ability to manage a diverse set of circumstances and sometimes limited amount of revenue while still maintaining our local government and providing essential services. It is our recognition of the need to provide for these health, safety, and general welfare conditions that motivates us to seek a stronger form of statutory government which will permit us to better interact with various State and Federal agencies.

The State of Alaska has supported the founding of our community through numerous Capital Matching Grants and Revenue Sharing monies. The next logical step is the continued support of our community through incorporation as a second class city. This necessary transition will be in the best interests of both the State of Alaska and future City of Edna Bay by enabling us to become an accountable legal entity that can fully interact with other agencies within the government of Alaska, and provide a stronger foundation for our local government to build a future on.

I respectfully request the Local Boundary Commission support our endeavor and grant Edna Bay's petition for incorporation.

Sincerely,

Myla Poelstra

Heather Richter

1508 His Way Lane

Edna Bay, Alaska. 99950

president@ednabayalaska.net

(907)594-6312

November 19, 2013

Local Boundary Commission

550 West Seventh Avenue, Suite 1640

Anchorage, AK 99501-351

Re: Supporting comments for Edna Bay Incorporation.

Greetings LBC Staff,

As president and long time citizen of Edna Bay, I am writing to express my support for the petition to incorporate Edna Bay as a Second Class City.

Over the past several decades Edna Bay has been successfully governing itself. Being president for the last six years, I am in a position to clearly see that we are ready for this most important step in our future. We are already performing most of the duties that will be required as a municipality. We hold monthly meetings, manage finances, successfully administer grants, hold elections, adhere to our Articles and Bylaws, provide services such as EMS, Search and Rescue, Volunteer Fire Department, Road Maintenance, Harbor Maintenance etc. I know that becoming a municipality will give us a better avenue to serve our residents while enhancing local self government.

In the processes of pursuing projects for the betterment of the Community, we have found that we are hindered by the inability to work with State and Federal offices on a legally recognized level. For example, the process of obtaining site control for our bulk fuel facility could have been greatly shortened had we been incorporated. In our current form of government site control has take years. We have been encouraged repeatedly by State and Federal offices to seek incorporation for enhancement of our joint working relationships.

Incorporation would either help or make possible the following examples:

1. Help in obtaining future site control for infrastructure and services.
2. Apply for grants that are only available to municipalities such as DOT and Community Block Development Grants from the DCCED.
3. Acquire land from the State to house our community multipurpose center and other assets.
4. Establish ordinances to help protect and serve citizens.

Looking towards our future, the Metes and Bounds proposed in the petition will allow for us to have within our boundaries suitable area for refuse management, an industrial site, our proposed hydro power facility (feasibility study presently being conducted), as well as our current community buildings, assets, and services.

I have seen an overwhelming degree of support for this petition from local residents who are eagerly awaiting and hopeful of your favorable decision regarding Edna Bays incorporation. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Heather Richter

President Edna Bay Community

From: [Susan Crew](#)
To: [Commission, Boundary \(CED sponsored\)](#)
Subject: Steve Schallberger comments Edna Bay Second class city
Date: Wednesday, November 20, 2013 2:30:08 PM

I moved to Edna Bay as a fisherman and built a house beginning about 1990. Then there were over a hundred people who lived here and about 15 children in the school. Since then the population has dropped to less than 50 full time residents. There are so few children now that the only way we can keep the school open is if a teacher gets hired that has enough kids. In 1990 there were 15 fishing boats with permits, now there are only five. As our population has diminished the few people who have moved here are mainly people from the lower 48 who visit in the summer and are retired, we are an aging and diminishing community.

Like alot of people I moved out here knowing there were very little services available but it was a trade off for the unique experience of living "in the bush". I appreciate the improvements we have had and realize that by becoming a 2nd class city more funds may be made available for additional improvements. But I strongly believe that our choice of lifestyle should not be subsidized by the government. I also feel that some of the proposed projects are ludicrous on a cost per capita basis and that the economic benefits derived from resource development would go to a few select individuals and do little financial good for the vast majority of the community.

Finally I believe that some of the numbers used to justify going to a 2nd class city are inflated in an effort of persuasion. My belief is that it is in the best interest of the state and the community to remain as we are.

Steve Schallberger

November 19, 2013

Local Boundary Commission staff
550 West Seventh Avenue, Suite 1640
Anchorage, AK 99501-3510

Re: Support Letter for Edna Bay Second Class City Petition

Dear LBC Staff,

We are writing today to thank you and show our appreciation for your help in our goal to become a second class city. We understand the increased level of responsibility, and also the many advantages of incorporation.

Our roads, bridges, and harbor are in desperate need of repair. There is no government entity other than our own that we can turn to for assistance with the difficulties we face. The State of Alaska offices we have worked with have recommended incorporation as a way to address this problem.

Our current form of government as a nonprofit corporation has worked well for many years, but lacks the legal standing we need to resolve complicated issues for site control, apply for necessary funding, or enter into agreements for the infrastructure we need to continue to support our community.

My husband and I have lived in Edna Bay for over a decade. We regularly attend community meetings and understand how important becoming a second class city is to the future prosperity and growth of our community.

In closing, we would like to express our support for the Edna Bay Petition, and ask that the Commission grant our request for incorporation.

Thank you again,

Sharon & Dick Wargi

From: [eveerose](#)
To: [Commission, Boundary \(CED sponsored\)](#)
Subject: Edna Bay as a Second Class City
Date: Wednesday, November 20, 2013 4:14:53 PM

To whom it may concern:

My name is Evelyn Widmyer, I grew up in and still reside (off and on depending upon my seasonal employments) in the community of Edna Bay, AK. My long since deceased mother bought our home in the late 1980's to raise her children in a community that operated on and required certain qualities in order to successfully maintain a healthy and non-dependant lifestyle.

I completely oppose changing the community of Edna Bay into a second class city. Everybody who has been there as long or close to as long as my family has is extremely self-sufficient and capable of doing things without the normal difficulties a person only having lived in cities (1st or 2nd class) will experience.

I do not want Edna bay to be a second class city.

I will not want to live in edna bay if the bill passes and our community goes second class city.

Thank you for your concerns and considerations,

EVELYN WIDMYER
GENERAL DELIVERY
EDNA BAY AK
99950

FROMTHEBOATTOYOU@HOTMAIL.COM

From: [Jesse James Widmyer](#)
To: [Commission, Boundary \(CED sponsored\)](#)
Subject: Edna bay/second class city petition
Date: Tuesday, November 19, 2013 10:14:13 PM

Hello, I am writing with concerns to the issue of Edna bay becoming a second class city. My name is Jesse Widmyer and I am twenty three years old, I have been a resident of Edna bay since 1990, the year I was born. I haven't read up on all the details about this idea but what I do know is that it will change my home in ways that are not beneficial to me and my family. We live in this remote place to enjoy a simpler way of life than the majority of society gets to experience. I do not understand why certain people come from the city and feel the need to change the way things have been in Edna bay for all time, there is no need for it. I've always heard if its not broken, then don't fix it. Edna bay is just fine so leave it be. Thank you for hearing my opinion, I hope it makes a difference.
Sent from my iPhone

From: [Susan Crew](#)
To: [Commission, Boundary \(CED sponsored\)](#)
Cc: fvcarrie@hotmail.com
Subject: Comment Edna bay Second class city Jim Widmyer
Date: Wednesday, November 20, 2013 1:41:48 PM

To Whom it may concern,

My name is Jim Widmyer, resident of Edna Bay Alaska 99950, PO Box 510.

I am concerned about the application from Edna Bay Alaska to become a second class city. I moved to Edna Bay to live in the woods and live a lifestyle away from anything recognized as a city, 1st, 2nd or 3rd class, the simple life so to speak, for nothing is simple about this lifestyle.

I don't understand why people move here and want to change everything to be the way it was where they came from. I feel they can always go back should that be their lifestyle and most of them do. Even if second class city is granted most will leave anyway thus leaving the burden of being a City to the people who do not want the responsibility.

I wonder, what does the State of Alaska gain? nothing. This will only bring more burden on an already over debted state.

I have watched other small communities go to being a city and you will find most people that were for this found out it didn't play out in their favor and now realize they made a mistake. We should learn from these mistakes and stay as we are.

My entire family is not in favor of this possible change, we enjoy the right to the freedom of choice: Live in the woods or move to a city.

Respectfully,
Jim L. Widmyer
Jesse Widmyer
Evelynn Widmyer
Lia Widmyer

From: [Susan Crew](#)
To: [Commission, Boundary \(CED sponsored\)](#)
Subject: Ken Widmyer"s comment Edna bay Second class city petition
Date: Wednesday, November 20, 2013 10:16:42 AM

Boundary Commission,

I've lived here for 30 years and it's been nice.
We all moved here to live in the woods, not in a town.

I want not to become a second class city

I don't think there's enough people here yet.

Ken Widmyer

From: [Lia Widmyer](#)
To: [Commission, Boundary \(CED sponsored\)](#)
Subject: comment in opposition to make edna bay a second class city
Date: Wednesday, November 20, 2013 3:51:29 PM

comment in opposition towards the petition to make Edna Bay a second class city

Inbox x



Lia Widmyer <lwidmyer83@gmail.com>

3:48 PM (0 minutes ago)



to ibc



Dear commission, or to whom it concerns,

My name is Lia Widmyer, and i am writing in regards to the petition for making Edna bay AK a second class city. I deeply oppose the whole idea. I do not believe it is in the best interest of the community or the state of alaska for that matter to do so.

I would like to begin by saying my family moved to edna bay around 1990, and luckily have been able to maintain our principal home there over the years. years in which i have seen many families come and go. unable to live the lifestyle or support themselves financially. possibly a combination of both. My parents moved there due to the remoteness ans the lifestyle that came along with it.

As times have changed so has the community. some believe that incorporation is the solution. my father and i do not! I do not see that we demonstrate reasonable need for a city government when what we have had has worked for so long. why fix it if its not broken i always heard. If chosen we as a community have the ability to maintain the well being of the community with our emt services, and access to guardian flight. the main concern of the petitioners being the harbors and roads have also been capable of being maintained.

One of the things i like about edna bay is that if i choose to operate a business on my property ,as my mother and i used to, I can! we used to make and sell pizzas to the community! If edna bay is to become potentially second class that as well as any other attempt to make a living within the bay by local families will be regulated. with the possibility of denial. The community already has obvious issues surrounding who will get the local business, trade etc. the people to me do not actually seem open to new revenues of service that we as people of the community may be able provide unless they are already the ones who are doing it. If the members of our community who already seem to have a majority of the say on business related issues are put in charge of running and regulating it as a city government. I believe it will make of a place less financially stable than it currently is.

As far as resources go to run and maintain a second class city we need a stable group to do so. this i do not see as something we have. our community is run by community boards put together by the same people from the same households every opportunity given and election held. Even when other nominees are present they still never get elected. these do not sound like people or a community ready for necessary change. It is difficult to get involved with the community boards who are elected because those there say and others seem not to be let become a part of. what i have seen during my times of residency, and other residents have seen as well we do not have an already biased group of individuals who i believe would be able to run this proposed city. Our human resources in this area are very limited in number, and mind. In the petition it basically states from what i understand that our community if proposal is accepted, plans to run our city strictly off of state money and only if that is to run out will we turn to local revenues. well as far as local revenues go many residents in our community are barely hanging on financially. Often having to leave the community for work purposes. This doesn't seem like a community that will be able to do any of the state matched funding programs spoke of in the petition. It sounds more like a proposal to live off all the state will give us until there is nothing more we can get from that level.

The population of edna bay is ever changing. As quickly as they come they also go. i don't know the statistics but i know very few families who have attempted a move to edna bay in recent years were ever able to make it due to financial instability, and what ever reasons they had. To run this proposed city government we need to have a solid and stable enough population. from the numbers over the years i do not believe we

do. The petitioners also try to make it sound as though we have a sound running school which employs a number of people. In reality the school has closed a number of times over the years unlike when i lived there as a kid. it is not stable and the count for children is only 7, it is not sound. it is again at risk of not reopening this coming fall if we do not acquire more school aged children. over the last few years i know that a majority or sufficient amount of the kids even attending school there have been the teachers own children. As well as that a number of the residents of edna bay, some of whom signed the petition do not live in edna bay year round. As the summer comes and goes so do they. Leaving more homes empty than occupied, in this community that seems to see reason to become second class.

Boundaries- I have seen the boundary lines drawn up by the petitioners and they seem to include a lot of USFS lands, and other federal land that can never be owned or expanded upon by the community. Why draw up such boundary lines is a question i wonder, but will never know because those in charge of this petitioning do not seem to have the information necessary to make it understood by those of us that are not in their loop of the community, to why this is such a great opportunity and so necessary for us as a community.

State liability- As a second class city it appears to me that we would be more of a burden to the state than anything else. as stated in the petition the city plans to function solely off money provided by the state. Let me say we as a community are not a welfare case nor do i like that through this petition we seem that way. As a second class city we would have much greater expenses than we already incur. Therefore we would have a lot higher need for local contribution. With the economy the way it is and especially in this community i find it very difficult if not impossible to imagine we would be able to contribute sufficiently at the local level. Therefore this proposed city would Not be in the states best interest.

Thank you for your time, i can only hope my comment makes a difference.

Sincerely,
Lia and Jim Widmyer