

Alaska Local Boundary Commission
PO Box 110809
Juneau, AK 99811-0809

To the members of the Alaska Local Boundary Commission:

I would like to comment on the formation of the Hoonah Borough and the attempt to sweep Elfin Cove into the new borough.

I strongly oppose absorbing Elfin Cove into the new borough.

My name is Anthony Magart. I am an Alaska resident and I split my year between Elfin Cove and Ketchikan. I operate the pilot station at Cape Spencer and serve the shipping needs at the northern entrance/exit of our Southeast Alaska waters. It is a seasonal station and we operate from May 1 to Sept 30 each year. Elfin Cove is our base of operation, and we own a home, a dock, and several cabins and other outbuildings in the cove. Since buying the business and moving to Elfin Cove, my wife and I have become very involved in local government.

The move to incorporate Elfin Cove into a new borough is bad politics and bad for Elfin Cove. We operate our local utilities and our local government without taxing our residents or our businesses. We do everything on a volunteer basis. What Hoonah is proposing will take money from us, and yet we will still operate our utilities and our local government as we always have. It is bad policy to create government and tax the people solely to pay for government. What we have now is direct democracy, and the new borough will diminish our voice.

I noticed that Hoonah drew neat lines around Pelican and Gustavus and Tenakee Springs when they mapped out their proposed colony. Why did they feel the need to include Elfin Cove? We don't have any recent historical ties to Hoonah other than that we are 35 miles apart from one another. Whomever is behind this wants to tax our residents and businesses and yet there has been nothing said about what we will get in return for being taxed outside of vague reference to "greater economic development" Our country was founded on the principle that we would pay taxes only to a government in which we were represented. Hoonah avoided a fight with Pelican and Gustavus because they didn't have the will to take them on. They carved Elfin Cove out because they know we don't have the numbers to put up much of a fight. Well, that is bad politics. Anyone who supports this move supports bad politics.

Bottom line, Hoonah needs to prove to you that it will benefit us in any way to be swept up into their proposed borough. They haven't even made an effort to show that we will gain from this proposal. Why aren't they trying to sell us on the idea? Because they don't believe that they have to. That is bad news for the community of Elfin Cove, and an omen of what it would be like to be governed by Hoonah. No thank you!

Sincerely,

Tony Magart
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