

From: [Pamela Bishop](#)
To: [Commission, Boundary \(CED sponsored\)](#)
Subject: Xunaa Borough
Date: Thursday, February 29, 2024 4:26:39 PM

You don't often get email from pammishop@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the State of Alaska mail system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Jedediah Smith,

I agree with many of the points brought out by others opposed to the borough. I am also opposed, and will only name a couple reasons since other ones have been well-stated. **First**, the boundary line extends way beyond the Hoonah area into land not compatible with Hoonah's needs. It intrudes into land that is used for Gustavu's economy and interests and would garner their PILT funds. We have nothing to do with the fishing and tourism in Glacier Bay and Gustavus. **Second**, a borough's required local contribution for public school is based on the taxable real and personal property in the school district, and gives us reason to question whether these taxes could be imposed on us by any level of government. Do we fall into the category of "an organized area" which pays "voluntary local contributions"? These funds are based on taxable property in the school district. What are these funds and how are they garnered? In a letter from Gerald Byers, then mayor, sent with Hoonah's application, it states, "Incorporation of the proposed region into a borough would broaden the tax base from which local school contributions are derived, because, those contributions would be based not only on property within the City of Hoonah, but also the surrounding communities. Outside the City of Hoonah, there are significant properties for which property valuations and corresponding school funding contributions remain unrealized." It goes on to list Funter Bay, Game Creek, and Elfin Cove, and says the Xunaa Borough would be eligible for new sources of outside funding. Also, "the new borough school district will be educating the same number of students with the same instructional, administrative and support personnel." "In a nutshell, the cost of education, either on an overall or per student basis, will not increase." This process of acquiring funds from areas Hoonah is not involved in and would have some jurisdiction over does not show the best of intentions, and also brings out questions of how this taxation works. It may even contradict the charter which says Game Creek will be exempt from real and personal property tax. Thank you for your consideration, Pamela