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Alaska Local Boundary Commission  
550 West 7th Ave, Suite 1650  
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Email [lbc@alaska.gov](mailto:lbc@alaska.gov)

Re: Xunaa Borough Petition Serious Flaws

Dear Alaska Local Boundary Commissioners,

The Xunaa Borough petition has serious flaws that stand out and should be apparent to the Commission. These flaws are specified in the resolution passed by the Gustavus City Council on February 20<sup>th</sup> disputing the qualifications of the Xunaa Borough petition, along with the supporting document attached to the resolution that is signed by the Mayor of Gustavus. Resolutions passed by the city councils of the City and Borough of Juneau and Tenakee Springs also specify significant issues related to the proposed borough boundaries.

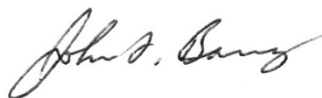
A borough in Alaska is intended to be a regional government that includes all the people in the region and is formed for their collective benefit. About half the people in this area live in Hoonah and the other half in Gustavus, Pelican and Tenakee Springs. The proposed Xunaa Borough will exclude these cities so it is therefore not a regional government. The proposed borough boundaries isolate these three cities in enclaves and will prevent them from ever forming a contiguous borough. The other choice would be to join the Xunaa Borough which will be problematic since the Xunaa Borough is being organized specifically for the benefit of Hoonah and without regard to the residents of the three cities the borough will isolate. There is no proposal for regional services outside of Hoonah itself, only regional taxes.

The Xunaa Borough would be just a change of status for the City of Hoonah that increases the tax base and authority over a vast area of water and unpopulated land. Traditional use of this area is immaterial to the proposed borough boundaries.

Hoonah is not the regional hub for Gustavus. Hoonah infrastructure is not accessible and of no benefit to Gustavus. The regional hub for the communities in the borough boundary area is Juneau.

The Xunaa Borough is not in itself the reason for opposition, it's the expansive boundaries. A lot of the opposition to the borough formation would cease if Hoonah would proceed with local boundaries that keep the possibility to form a true regional borough open in the future.

Sincerely,



John Barry