

From: [Alan Steininger](#)
To: [Commission, Boundary \(CED sponsored\)](#)
Subject: Proposed Xunaa Borough Incorporation
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Dear Local Boundary Commission Members,

I oppose the incorporation of the Xunaa Borough by the City of Hoonah as proposed. Approximately ten years ago, I purchased property and built a home in Lisianski Inlet about one mile south of Pelican.

In general, I have objections to the formation of large boroughs, that can impose taxes on remote properties, businesses and resource development, but cannot effectively provide any public services such as road access and maintenance, law enforcement, emergency services and fire protection outside of the local municipal boundaries. This is especially the case with the proposed Xunaa Borough petitioned by the City of Hoonah.

This proposal is a significant land grab. The City of Hoonah has a population less than 1,000 within an area of approximately nine square miles. They are proposing to incorporate approximately four thousand square miles of land area, populated by 47 Alaskans, to the proposed borough. Only 2 signatures on the petition were identified as residents of Elfin Cove, it seems clear the other 45 are likely opposed to this merger. Nowhere in the proposed budget does the Xunaa Borough project the cost of providing to the people of Elfin Cove however they do propose to collect revenue from them to support services in Hoonah.

This proposal excludes the immediate Pelican and Lisianski Inlet area, but it includes the land and waters in and around Cross Sound, Lisianski Strait, Yakobi Island, Stag Bay and Northern Chichagof Island. These areas are approximately fifty miles from Hoonah and are primarily used by fishermen and hunters based from Pelican and Elfin Cove. This also includes charters, commercial fishermen and mining companies. This proposed borough would impose taxes on these enterprises who operate out of Pelican while Xunaa Borough provides no services at Pelican's expense.

Hoonah is not the transportation hub for the area. Ferries and aircraft go directly to Juneau for access to services that include food, medical, emergency service, etc. Access by tourists to Glacier Bay, which Xunaa proposes to subsume, is primarily out of Gustavus.

Xunaa claims the new boundaries would result in increased funding for education in the Hoonah School District. This is not supported by the facts. The current Hoonah School District has a required local contribution of approximately \$240k but Hoonah currently contributes near the state funding cap. It is true that reorganization would increase the required local contribution, which is based on taxable land value, however the funding cap is not based on land value and would not be impacted by this proposal. Hoonah School District funding would be minimally impacted by this proposal.

The proposal uses oral history to justify borough boundaries. History is about the past. Land occupancy and land uses change. This proposal should be about current and future capacity to provide services.

Yours Truly,
Al Steininger
(907)209-8508

“Earn your success on service to others, not at the expense of others.”
H. Jackson Brown Jr.