

February 22, 2024

Hello Alaska Local Boundary Commission,

Please add my voice to the resounding opposition to the proposed borough formation of the Xunaa Borough by the city of Hoonah.

I have been a property owner in Gustavus since 1988.

So as not to reiterate each point, I would like to state that I am in agreement with the many opposition letters already submitted, outlining the multiple valid reasons for the boundary commission to deny or at least reconsider the boundaries in this proposal. Outstandingly, this borough proposal appears to be a blatant over-reach with ambitions to control and tax a huge land/water parcel and activities thereon, regardless of the communities that would be impacted, and self-stated, to benefit solely the city of Hoonah. The fact that they carved the City of Gustavus out of their proposed map is indicative of their disregard of the basic tenet of borough formation, which states that “the population of the region must be socially, culturally, and economically interrelated and integrated in the regional context” (Article X of the Constitution of the State of Alaska).

When it comes to borough management, from my view of Hoonah (which is mostly from the deck of the Alaska State ferry when it docks coming and going between Gustavus and Juneau), what I see are clear-cut mountainsides and large cruise ships. If this proposal is granted as is, it is appalling to imagine the damage they could do to this pristine Alaskan wilderness should they choose to exploit its resources.

Please carefully consider ALL of the reasons stated in other letters that have been submitted, not only those from Gustavus but from other communities to the east, west and south that would be negatively impacted should you approve the requested boundary.

As you are counting the number of yays and nays of submitted letters, please note that the majority of the yays submitted are from property owners in Funter Bay and Colt/Horse Islands, who would prefer to be left alone but do acknowledge that annexation is inevitable, and defensively support a Hoonah borough rather than being annexed into City & Borough of Juneau. Furthermore, please note there is not one letter of support from any resident of Hoonah.

If Hoonah wants borough instead of city management, let them mark much more local, reasonable, and supported boundary lines.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Joanie Waller