

Staff
Local Boundary Commission
State of Alaska

June 2, 2024

Re: Preliminary Report
Xunaa Borough

Local Boundary Commission Members:

I am very grateful the preliminary report recommends the petition for the Xunaa Borough be denied. While Pelican was not included in the petition by Hoonah if approved it would have negative consequences for the community. Specifically:

- Future growth of our community would be limited by the boundaries of the new borough. We have active mining claims within 2 miles of our city limits that would fall within the Xunaa Borough.
- Should we wish to be included in a new borough, the Xunaa boundaries would hem us in from joining with other Icy Straits communities and landowners.
- Federal receipts would be reduced.
- Local business owners conducting commercial activities out in the new Xunaa expanded borough would be subject to tax.

For these reasons alone the recommendation of the preliminary report should be accepted.

I might add, the reference of historic use that occurred a hundred years or more ago is not justification to set boundaries for a local government today. If activity took place at some time in the distant past and then moved to a new area, where the descendants finally settled, is not justification for expanded government boundaries today. Reading the comments by researchers, the term “it may be assumed’ is often used.

Finally, I do contend that Hoonah has embraced “industrial tourism”. This is evidenced by 327 cruise ship visits in 2024, a zip line, gondola, jeep tours, whale watching tours, etc. This may be perfectly normal for a

community the size of Hoonah, but it is not for Elfin Cove. The proposed boundaries would also bring this activity to our community of Pelican.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my concerns and thank you to the staff that prepared the preliminary report.

Sincerely,

Norm Carson
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Pelican, AK 99832

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CC: Bert Stedman, Senator, Room 518, Capitol Bldg.

Rebecca Himschoot, Representative, Room 409, Capitol Bldg.