

From: [James Hughes](#)
To: [Commission, Boundary \(CED sponsored\)](#)
Subject: Xunaa Borough Petition
Date: Thursday, February 29, 2024 11:32:29 AM

You don't often get email from carterhughes@hotmail.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.

Feb. 29, 2024

To Local Boundary Commission regarding the Xunaa Borough Proposal;

My name is Carter Hughes. I am a former resident of Pelican Alaska. I lived there in the 1990s and early 2000s. I am a commercial salmon troller and I continue to fish in the Cross Sound / Yakobi area and deliver my catch into Pelican when I am fishing in that area. I currently live in Sitka and my boat, the FV Astrolabe, is ported out of Sitka. I have sold troll salmon and halibut into Pelican for several decades. I have many friends that currently live in Pelican. I have continued to support the town of Pelican to the best of my modest abilities throughout the ebb and flood of the commercial fishing industry since the late 1980s. Pelican is doing much better now than it was a few years ago. This is because of the tax and business revenue that is generated by commercial and sport fleets that are ported out of there and / or deliver there. Despite the former state of decay that was afflicting the shore based fish processing capacity, that trend has been reversed by the establishment of Yakobi Fisheries, who I sell a significant portion of my summer troll catch to. There are also several fishing lodges that generate a large amount of tax and business revenue for Pelican. There is now a general store in Pelican in the summer. There has not been a store of the same quality for over a decade. Pelican needs the revenue that is generated by its commercial fishing and tourist industries to stay in Pelican. I am opposed to the proposed annexation of the Cross Sound area by Xunaa Borough.

There is no benefit to Pelican, or any of the other cities that will be annexed if the Xunaa Borough is allowed to expand. All that will happen is the transfer of revenue from those towns and redistribution to where the voting mass is greatest, the City of Hoonah. It's simply a matter of numbers. More people live in Hoonah than the other towns' populations combined. There will never be enough assembly seats to influence voting in a scenario that involves this proposed expansion. There are no roads joining Hoonah to Pelican, nor is it plausible to build any roads. There is no common sharable infrastructure. Pelican has it's own school and fire department. Pelican has its own harbor and can't afford to lose funding for it in any amount. Pelican's tourist business is not industrialized like it is in Hoonah. I don't understand why Hoonah doesn't consider taxing the juggernaut tourist industry it has allowed to develop there. That would be much more equitable than trying to annex the cities to its west and thus grab some of their revenue. I am absolutely opposed to the proposed expansion of the Xunaa Borough.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

James Carter Hughes

Sitka