

**From:** [shearwaterak@aol.com](mailto:shearwaterak@aol.com)  
**To:** [Commission, Boundary \(CED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed Xunaa Borough  
**Date:** Friday, February 9, 2024 11:04:28 AM

---

You don't often get email from shearwaterak@aol.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.

February 9, 2024

Alaska Boundary Commission  
PO Box 110809  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-0809

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed Xunaa borough. I am currently a Gustavus resident and previous resident (from 1992-2019) of Elfin Cove. I have abundant experience in the entire area.

The purposed boundaries are preposterous. It is clearly and solely to grab as much revenue as possible with no possibility of providing any services what so ever to the communities they will encompass. The plan to all but surround Pelican and Tenakee Springs will deprive them of any future revenues and resources, from the lands and activities that closely surrounds them. In reaching so far out to sea and up the coast it is, again, clearly to grab as much fishing related revenue as possible at the expense of the rest of Northern Southeast residents.

The attempt to include Elfin Cove has been tried before. Hoonah and Elfin Cove have little in common. A Xunaa Borough will impose taxes and other restrictions while providing no services. With the current difficult state of intra-community travel in Southeast, Hoonah is very difficult and very expensive to access. Even from Elfin Cove the only option is by Alaska Seaplanes or a charter which costs \$800 to \$1000 per person round trip. (It costs me \$100 in fuel alone to travel to Hoonah, round trip, by open skiff from Gustavus and is highly weather dependent.) Hoonah has long coveted the revenue from the charter and fishing industry that passes through Elfin Cove (and incidentally has provided negative impact on the local area that Xunaa will be unwilling to help mitigate).

Taking virtually all the area around Gustavus up to and including Pleasant Island (virtually on our doorstep) as well as all of Glacier Bay will absolutely deprive Gustavus of much needed revenue. The community of Gustavus houses and provides the infrastructure for most of the park employees. It provides the infrastructure for most all non-cruise ship visitors. Its' future is very much tied to the park. Hoonah wants to grab the revenue generated by the park and leave the costs to Gustavus.

I would have no problem with a Xunaa borough that encompasses areas that are

currently economically, socially, geographically, and feasibly connected to Hoonah.  
That should only include Port Frederic and northeastern Chichagof Island NOT far  
out to sea, all of Glacier Bay, and Southern Chichagof Island that have no economic,  
physical, or social connection to Hoonah what so ever and the proposed Xunaa  
Borough.

Steven and Deborah Hemenway  
PO Box 301  
Gustavus, Alaska 99826