

February 29, 2024

Alaska Local Boundary Commission
550 W 7th Ave Suite 1650
Anchorage, Ak. 99501-3510

Re: Proposed Hoonah Xunaa Borough

I'm writing to oppose the petition for the Hoonah Xunaa Borough as currently outlined.

Half of Alaska falls outside of the 19 organized boroughs and many notable communities thrive under the unorganized borough format. The proposed Xunaa borough offers little or nothing to communities within the proposed boundaries other than to Hoonah itself which will gain from taxation of residents and businesses that receive no services in return, and for which Hoonah has no legitimate claim.

The petition alleges to have commonalities with other communities in the Icy Strait area while at the same time producing multiple documents emphasizing the cultural heritage and substance history of a very particular people that has no crossover to most of the established communities within the proposed boundaries.

Expanding a culture's influence back to historical areas and beyond is not the goal of Alaska borough formation nor the mission of the Local Boundary Commission. Hoonah has a wealth of resources at its disposal and doesn't need to seek additional resources from smaller surrounding communities that have different objectives and different needs.

Respectfully,

Forrest Braden, long time member of the Gustavus, Alaska community.