

February 29, 2024
Local Boundary Commission

I oppose the Xunaa Borough Incorporation Petition.

During a public comment opportunity, it was apparent that many individuals who would be affected by incorporation were not aware of all of the short and long-term impacts of borough formation. They were only being informed of the positive aspects and what the promoters of the petition wanted them to know. If this petition is truly for the good of all those involved and/or affected, then there would be no questions or doubt of the purpose and intent of formation.

The proposed borough boundaries presented respectfully took into account three cities that did not wish to be apart of the newly proposed Xunna Borough. However, many living outside a city area but within the proposed boundary area did not receive the same level of respect. It is my understanding, they also did not provide consent and were clearly opposed to borough formation.

Much of the land and water that was included within the boundaries of the proposed Xunaa Borough would take away Payment In Lieu of Taxes (PILT) funding from the very cities which they respectfully excluded from their plan. This capturing of land and water presents a financial injustice to those cities.

In the Alaska Constitution it states...

Introduction written by Convention Delegate and former Senator and Lieutenant Governor, Jack Conhill - *“This document is the product of Alaska pioneers, a spirit of independence and self-government. It is your guarantee that the Individual will always be in charge.”*

Article 1 § 1. Inherent Rights – *“This constitution is dedicated to the principles that all persons have a natural right to life, liberty, the pursuit of happiness, and the enjoyment of the rewards of their own industry; that all persons are equal and entitled to equal rights, opportunities, and protection under the law; and that all persons have corresponding obligations to the people and to the State.”*

Articel 1 § 2. Source of Government - *“All political power is inherent in the people. All government originates with the people, is founded upon their will only, and is instituted solely for the good of the people as a whole.”*

Article 10 § 3. Boroughs – *The entire State shall be divided into boroughs, organized or unorganized.*

I do not believe the proposed Xunaa Borough petition fulfills the individual protection of rights as stated in the Alaska Constitution. This petition goes against the will of many being affected.

The unorganized area of Alaska is the only “Last Frontier” remaining and holds the last bastion of liberty left in America. What is best for the state is a citizenry of happy people content with a way of life of their own making, not a way of life made by and forced upon them by others. And not a way of life depended on that which is taken from others against their will, in order to exist.

Alternate Solution

If the areas around the City of Hoonah wish to be incorporated, they should do so by filing a petition to be annexed by the City of Hoonah. This will promote the growth of city boundaries from within by the will and desire of those being affected.

Sincerely,
Pamela Goode