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To: [Smith, Jedediah R \(CED\)](#)
Subject: Xunaa Borough Petition
Date: Tuesday, February 27, 2024 5:20:27 AM

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Dear Alaska Local Boundary Commission,

I am writing this letter to you regarding our family's opinion on the Xunaa Borough Petition. We are not opposed to the Hoonah Borough, but we strongly object to their proposed boundaries. My husband and I have both lived and worked in Gustavus and Glacier Bay National Park since 1992. During this time we have each been to Hoonah on only two occasions. We do not believe that Hoonah is the "hub" of SE Alaska in any way. SE Alaska is a very large and diverse area. Gustavus, Glacier Bay National Park, and other surrounding SE Alaska communities are areas that are very different from the community of Hoonah. The charm and individual attractions of each community along with each area's natural resources are what attracts visitors and residents to each place. Juneau is the hub of SE Alaska from which we get our goods and services, our ferry and flight services, our groceries, mail, fuel, supplies, and medical services. We do not receive any goods or services from Hoonah. While I can understand why Hoonah would like to benefit financially from encompassing all of Glacier Bay and the areas that surround the City of Gustavus, this hardly seems fair or ethical for the people who live and work in the communities outside of Hoonah. Hoonah would benefit financially while offering no benefits to the people of the surrounding areas. Furthermore, in the cases of Elfin Cove and Gustavus, the borough would be to their detriment as they would lose valuable services from the State of Alaska. Is Hoonah going to maintain and improve the boardwalk and hydroelectric systems of Elfin Cove? Will Hoonah contribute to the budget of the City of Gustavus? Hoonah appears simply to have ambitions to grow their economy at the expense of their neighbors by attempting to implement the Xunaa Borough. Hoonah offers no benefits, goods, or services in return to these communities. The Xunaa Borough would be self serving for Hoonah to the detriment of the surrounding areas.

Particularly concerning and distasteful to us is Hoonah's interest in including Glacier Bay National Park in its Xunaa Borough boundaries. Glacier Bay National Park belongs to ALL Americans under the direction of the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior. It seems totally inappropriate, exclusionary, and offensive that one community would benefit exclusively from the concessions and the resources of America's park. While I can certainly understand the financial advantage and benefits for Hoonah to encompass GBNP and have a piece of that pie, this would be to the detriment of ALL Americans as well as the nearby individual communities of Alaska.

We urge you to table the proposed Xunaa Borough Petition and continue with a conversation that can lead to acceptable changes that are beneficial to all of the communities in the area. Thank you kindly for your time in considering our letter.

Sincerely,

Debra and James Johnson
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Gustavus, AK