

February 27, 2024

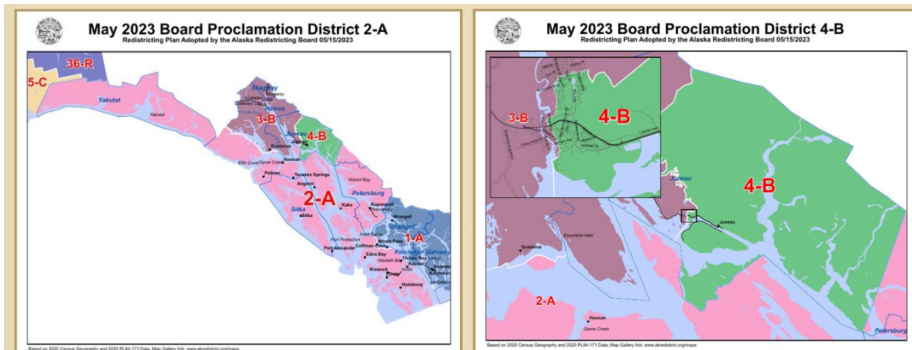
To the Alaska Boundary Commission:

We are property owners on Horse and Colt islands and write this letter in support of the City of Hoonah's petition to the Alaska Boundary Commission to become the Xunaa Borough. This petition proposes boundaries that include Horse and Colt islands, along with the Mansfield Peninsula (Funter Bay).

Many Horse and Colt residents purchased their unincorporated property largely because they did not want to be in an organized borough that could subject them to taxation without representation or services. Many residents also chose Horse and Colt because they desired closer access to Icy Strait fishing, and hunting opportunities on Admiralty Island and other nearby Southeast island locales. A few of our island families have familial ties to Hoonah and surrounding indigenous areas.

Geographically and culturally, we believe our properties have much in common with the rural nature of the proposed Xunaa Borough. This is evidenced by the inclusion of the areas proposed for annexation in Alaska House District 2-A, which includes Hoonah and most of the other island communities. For a place to be included in a House District, Article VI, Section 6 of Alaska's Constitution requires that a District "... shall be formed of contiguous and compact territory containing as nearly as practicable a relatively integrated socio-economic area."

These boundaries are based on official U.S. Census data and must coincide with official census blocks. The current District boundaries were challenged but ultimately approved by the Alaska Supreme Court, establishing that the designated district meets the socio-economic legal requirements.



The City and Borough of Juneau (CBJ) Assembly recently filed an objection to the Xunaa Borough petition and boundary plan. Presumably, CBJ continues to desire annexation of these remote properties for purposes of taxation but has offered no reciprocal services in return, nor any explanation of why the proposed area would be a better socio-economic fit with Juneau. Our island residents are near-unanimously opposed to annexation by Juneau. That sentiment was previously demonstrated during CBJ Assembly meetings in 2006 and 2019 when Horse and Colt annexation was discussed.

In the understanding that all unincorporated areas in the State will eventually come within some borough, we the undersigned residents of Horse and Colt Islands hereby express our strong support for the petition by the City of Hoonah for creation of the Xunaa Borough with boundaries to include our remote homesites. This letter represents the collective view of approximately 68 property owners and residents. Documentation of their approval can be provided upon request.

Respectfully submitted,

## HORSE & COLT ISLAND OWNERS

| NAMES:              |                           | LEGAL ADDRESS                                              | EMAIL                                                                    |
|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Allwine, Karla      | <i>Karla Allwine</i>      | LOT 10 & 11 AREA 1 & LOT 10 AREA 2 COLT ISLAND SUBDIVISION | <a href="mailto:kaa@gci.net">kaa@gci.net</a>                             |
| Allwine, Steve      | <i>Steve Allwine</i>      | LOT 10 & 11 AREA 1 & LOT 10 AREA 2 COLT ISLAND SUBDIVISION | <a href="mailto:main@gci.net">main@gci.net</a>                           |
| Baxter, Gary        | <i>Gary Baxter</i>        | LOT 2 BLOCK K HORSE ISLAND SUBDIVISION                     |                                                                          |
| Baxter, Kathy       | <i>Kathy Baxter</i>       | LOT 2 BLOCK K HORSE ISLAND SUBDIVISION                     | <a href="mailto:kbaxter@gci.net">kbaxter@gci.net</a>                     |
| Baxter, Pam         | <i>Pam Baxter</i>         | LOT 7A BLOCK A HORSE ISLAND SUBDIVISION                    |                                                                          |
| Baxter, Ronnie      | <i>Ronnie Baxter</i>      | LOT 7A BLOCK A HORSE ISLAND SUBDIVISION                    | <a href="mailto:scoreys2@yahoo.com">scoreys2@yahoo.com</a>               |
| Buss, David         | <i>David Buss</i>         | LOT 11 BLOCK E HORSE ISLAND SUBDIVISION                    | <a href="mailto:dmbuss@gmail.com">dmbuss@gmail.com</a>                   |
| Ellenbecker, John   | <i>John Ellenbecker</i>   | LOT 4 BLOCK J HORSE ISLAND SUBDIVISION                     | <a href="mailto:c_jellenbecker@yahoo.com">c_jellenbecker@yahoo.com</a>   |
| Ellenbecker, Mary C | <i>Mary C Ellenbecker</i> | LOT 4 BLOCK J HORSE ISLAND SUBDIVISION                     | <a href="mailto:c_jellenbecker@yahoo.com">c_jellenbecker@yahoo.com</a>   |
| Ely, Kirstie        | <i>Kirstie Ely</i>        | LOT 1 BLOCK F HORSE ISLAND SUBDIVISION                     | <a href="mailto:kirstie.ann.ely@gmail.com">kirstie.ann.ely@gmail.com</a> |
| Essary, Kimberly    | <i>Kimberly Essary</i>    | LOT 3 BLOCK E HORSE ISLAND SUBDIVISION                     | <a href="mailto:kmessary87@gmail.com">kmessary87@gmail.com</a>           |
| Essary, Zach        | <i>Zach Essary</i>        | LOT 3 BLOCK E HORSE ISLAND SUBDIVISION                     | <a href="mailto:zessary@gmail.com">zessary@gmail.com</a>                 |
| Funk, Steve         | <i>Steve Funk</i>         | LOT 5 BLOCK A HORSE ISLAND SUBDIVISION                     | <a href="mailto:stevedfunk@gmail.com">stevedfunk@gmail.com</a>           |
| Godkin, Alicia      | <i>Alicia Godkin</i>      | LOT 2A BLOCK A HORSE ISLAND SUBDIVISION                    |                                                                          |
| Godkin, Brandon     | <i>Brandon Godkin</i>     | LOT 2A BLOCK A HORSE ISLAND SUBDIVISION                    | <a href="mailto:brandon.godkin@yahoo.com">brandon.godkin@yahoo.com</a>   |
| Green, Mark         | <i>Mark Green</i>         | LOT 1 BLOCK D HORSE ISLAND SUBDIVISION                     | <a href="mailto:mark.e.green67@gmail.com">mark.e.green67@gmail.com</a>   |
| Heaton, Scott       | <i>Scott Heaton</i>       | LOT 2B PINE MARTEN SUBDIVISION                             |                                                                          |
| Heaton, Traci       | <i>Traci Heaton</i>       | LOT 2B PINE MARTEN SUBDIVISION                             | <a href="mailto:juneautraci@gmail.com">juneautraci@gmail.com</a>         |
| Holombo, Mark       | <i>Mark Holombo</i>       | LOT 7B BLOCK A HORSE ISLAND SUBDIVISION                    |                                                                          |
| Holombo, Mary       | <i>Mary Holombo</i>       | LOT 7B BLOCK A HORSE ISLAND SUBDIVISION                    | <a href="mailto:mholombo@bbslawyer.com">mholombo@bbslawyer.com</a>       |
| Janes, Robert       | <i>Bob Janes</i>          | LOT 1 AREA 3 COLT ISLAND SUBDIVISION                       | <a href="mailto:bob@gguiding.com">bob@gguiding.com</a>                   |
| Keller, David       | <i>David Keller</i>       | LOT 14 & 15 AREA 2 COLT ISLAND SUBDIVISION                 | <a href="mailto:saltheart76@gmail.com">saltheart76@gmail.com</a>         |
| Keller, Lisa        | <i>Lisa Keller</i>        | LOT 14 & 15 AREA 2 COLT ISLAND SUBDIVISION                 |                                                                          |
| Lawrence, Jill      | <i>Jill Lawrence</i>      | LOT 4 BLOCK B HORSE ISLAND SUBDIVISION                     |                                                                          |
| Leggitt, Dave       | <i>Dave Leggitt</i>       | LOT 7 BLOCK C HORSE ISLAND SUBDIVISION                     | <a href="mailto:davidioeleggitt@gmail.com">davidioeleggitt@gmail.com</a> |
| Leggitt, Juliana    | <i>Juliana Leggitt</i>    | LOT 7 BLOCK C HORSE ISLAND SUBDIVISION                     | <a href="mailto:julianajoymelin@gmail.com">julianajoymelin@gmail.com</a> |
| Lockhart, Ann       | <i>Ann Lockhart</i>       | LOT 3 BLOCK B HORSE ISLAND SUBDIVISION                     | <a href="mailto:ablockhart1972@gmail.com">ablockhart1972@gmail.com</a>   |

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|--------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Lockhart, Bill     | <i>Bill Lockhart</i>     | LOT 3 BLOCK B HORSE ISLAND SUBDIVISION                                | <a href="mailto:ablockhart1972@gmail.com">ablockhart1972@gmail.com</a>       |
| Lockwood, Dale     | <i>Dale Lockwood</i>     | LOT 12 AREA 2 & LOT 13 AREA 1 COLT ISLAND SUBDIVISION                 | <a href="mailto:islandwoodworks1@gmail.com">islandwoodworks1@gmail.com</a>   |
| Lockwood, Pam      | <i>Pam Lockwood</i>      | LOT 12 AREA 2 & LOT 13 AREA 1 COLT ISLAND SUBDIVISION                 |                                                                              |
| Loofbourrow, Casey | <i>Casey Loofbourrow</i> | LOT 1 BLOCK F HORSE ISLAND SUBDIVISION                                | <a href="mailto:caseyloofbourrow@gmail.com">caseyloofbourrow@gmail.com</a>   |
| Mahle, Heather     | <i>Heather Mahle</i>     | LOT 1B & 1C BLOCK A HORSE ISLAND SUBDIVISION                          | <a href="mailto:hmahle907@gmail.com">hmahle907@gmail.com</a>                 |
| Mahle, Josh        | <i>Josh Mahle</i>        | LOT 1B & 1C BLOCK A HORSE ISLAND SUBDIVISION                          | <a href="mailto:josh504@gmail.com">josh504@gmail.com</a>                     |
| Massey, Mandy      | <i>Mandy Massey</i>      | LOT 5 BLOCK A HORSE ISLAND SUBDIVISION                                | <a href="mailto:homes@mandymassey.com">homes@mandymassey.com</a>             |
| McDougal, Deena    | <i>Deena McDougal</i>    | LOT 1 BLOCK C HORSE ISLAND SUBDIVISION & LOT 2A SEA CLIFF SUBDIVISION |                                                                              |
| Moulton, Marcheta  | <i>Marcheta Moulton</i>  | LOT 1 BLOCK G HORSE ISLAND SUBDIVISION                                | <a href="mailto:islandprincess125@gmail.com">islandprincess125@gmail.com</a> |
| Moxley, Kelly      | <i>Kelly Moxley</i>      | LOT 1 BLOCK C HORSE ISLAND SUBDIVISION & LOT 2A SEA CLIFF SUBDIVISION | <a href="mailto:kellymoxley@yahoo.com">kellymoxley@yahoo.com</a>             |
| Musslewhite, Jake  | <i>Jake Musslewhite</i>  | LOT 1 BLOCK C HORSE ISLAND SUBDIVISION & LOT 2A SEA CLIFF SUBDIVISION | <a href="mailto:fishjake@yahoo.com">fishjake@yahoo.com</a>                   |
| Musslewhite, Matt  | <i>Matt Musslewhite</i>  | LOT 1 BLOCK C HORSE ISLAND SUBDIVISION & LOT 2A SEA CLIFF SUBDIVISION | <a href="mailto:akrovers@yahoo.com">akrovers@yahoo.com</a>                   |
| Olmstead, Janet    | <i>Janet Olmstead</i>    | LOT 3 BLOCK A HORSE ISLAND SUBDIVISION                                | <a href="mailto:teamolmstead@gmail.com">teamolmstead@gmail.com</a>           |
| Olmstead, Steve    | <i>Steve Olmstead</i>    | LOT 3 BLOCK A HORSE ISLAND SUBDIVISION                                | <a href="mailto:teamolmstead@gmail.com">teamolmstead@gmail.com</a>           |
| Parker, Loren      | <i>Loren Parker</i>      | LOT 1 BLOCK K HORSE ISLAND SUBDIVISION                                | <a href="mailto:parker.loren@gmail.com">parker.loren@gmail.com</a>           |
| Reeder, Brenna     | <i>Brenna Reeder</i>     | LOT 6 BLOCK A HORSE ISLAND SUBDIVISION                                | <a href="mailto:baspersmith@gmail.com">baspersmith@gmail.com</a>             |
| Reeder, Keith      | <i>Keith Reeder</i>      | LOT 6 BLOCK A HORSE ISLAND SUBDIVISION                                | <a href="mailto:reederk@gmail.com">reederk@gmail.com</a>                     |
| Riggins, Brian     | <i>Brian Riggins</i>     | LOT 9 BLOCK E HORSE ISLAND SUBDIVISION                                | <a href="mailto:brianriggins70@gmail.com">brianriggins70@gmail.com</a>       |
| Riggins, Diana     | <i>Diana Riggins</i>     | LOT 9 BLOCK E HORSE ISLAND SUBDIVISION                                |                                                                              |
| Savikko, Albert    | <i>Albert Savikko</i>    | LOT 5 & 6 BLOCK B HORSE ISLAND SUBDIVISION                            | <a href="mailto:alsavikko@gmail.com">alsavikko@gmail.com</a>                 |
| Schell, Jim        | <i>Jim Schell</i>        | LOT 5 BLOCK C HORSE ISLAND SUBDIVISION                                | <a href="mailto:juneaujim@yahoo.com">juneaujim@yahoo.com</a>                 |
| Schell, Lynnette   | <i>Lynnette Schell</i>   | LOT 5 BLOCK C HORSE ISLAND SUBDIVISION                                |                                                                              |
| Schonenbach, Nan   | <i>Nan Schonenbach</i>   | LOT 1 BLOCK C HORSE ISLAND SUBDIVISION & LOT 2A SEA CLIFF SUBDIVISION |                                                                              |
| Schonenbach, Ron   | <i>Ron Schonenbach</i>   | LOT 1 BLOCK C HORSE ISLAND SUBDIVISION & LOT 2A SEA CLIFF SUBDIVISION | <a href="mailto:taku2@yahoo.com">taku2@yahoo.com</a>                         |
| Simpson, Erica     | <i>Erica Simpson</i>     | LOT 1 & 2 BLOCK B HORSE ISLAND SUBDIVISION                            | <a href="mailto:ericam_simpson@yahoo.com">ericam_simpson@yahoo.com</a>       |
| Spickler, Sandy    | <i>Sandy Spickler</i>    | LOT 4 BLOCK A HORSE ISLAND SUBDIVISION                                | <a href="mailto:sandy.spickler@gmail.com">sandy.spickler@gmail.com</a>       |
| Spickler, Scott    | <i>Scott Spickler</i>    | LOT 4 BLOCK A HORSE ISLAND SUBDIVISION                                | <a href="mailto:sspickler@gmail.com">sspickler@gmail.com</a>                 |
| Stanley, Bill      | <i>Bill Stanley</i>      | LOT 7 & 8 BLOCK E HORSE ISLAND SUBDIVISION                            | <a href="mailto:noetaforme@yahoo.com">noetaforme@yahoo.com</a>               |
| Stefanich, Austin  | <i>Austin Stefanich</i>  | LOT 6 BLOCK E HORSE ISLAND SUBDIVISION                                | <a href="mailto:austinstefanich@gmail.com">austinstefanich@gmail.com</a>     |
| Stefanich, Eric    | <i>Eric Stefanich</i>    | LOT 6 BLOCK E HORSE ISLAND SUBDIVISION                                | <a href="mailto:eric.stefanich1@gmail.com">eric.stefanich1@gmail.com</a>     |
| Stefanich, Kelsey  | <i>Kelsey Stefanich</i>  | LOT 6 BLOCK E HORSE ISLAND SUBDIVISION                                |                                                                              |
| Thorp, Don         | <i>Don Thorp</i>         | LOT 2 BLOCK G HORSE ISLAND SUBDIVISION                                |                                                                              |
| Thorp, Jill        | <i>Jill Thorp</i>        | LOT 2 BLOCK G HORSE ISLAND SUBDIVISION                                | <a href="mailto:sam.jillthorp@yahoo.com">sam.jillthorp@yahoo.com</a>         |
| Thorp, Linda       | <i>Linda Thorp</i>       | LOT 2 BLOCK G HORSE ISLAND SUBDIVISION                                |                                                                              |
| Thorp, Sam         | <i>Sam Thorp</i>         | LOT 2 BLOCK G HORSE ISLAND SUBDIVISION                                | <a href="mailto:sthorp_sri@ymail.com">sthorp_sri@ymail.com</a>               |
| Thorp, Tedi        | <i>Tedi Thorp</i>        | LOT 2 BLOCK G HORSE ISLAND SUBDIVISION                                |                                                                              |
| Tibbles, Kristy    | <i>Kristy Tibbles</i>    | LOT 7 AREA 3 COLT ISLAND SUBDIVISION                                  |                                                                              |
| Tibbles, Mike      | <i>Mike Tibbles</i>      | LOT 7 AREA 3 COLT ISLAND SUBDIVISION                                  | <a href="mailto:tibbles@alaska.net">tibbles@alaska.net</a>                   |

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|----------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Wolfe, Dawn          | <i>Dawn Wolfe</i>          | LOT 1 AREA 3 COLT ISLAND SUBDIVISION    | <a href="mailto:dawn@gguiding.com">dawn@gguiding.com</a>                 |
| Ziegenfuss, Caleb    | <i>Caleb Ziegenfuss</i>    | LOT 1A BLOCK A HORSE ISLAND SUBDIVISION | <a href="mailto:inspectsetheast@gmail.com">inspectsetheast@gmail.com</a> |
| Ziegenfuss, Jacqelli | <i>Jacqelli Ziegenfuss</i> | LOT 1A BLOCK A HORSE ISLAND SUBDIVISION | <a href="mailto:jacqelli@gmail.com">jacqelli@gmail.com</a>               |