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February 28, 2024

Mr. Jedediah R. Smith
Local Boundary Commission (LBC)
Alaska Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development
550 W 7th Ave, Suite 1650
Anchorage, AK 99501

Re: Proposed Xunaa Borough

Mr. Smith,

My husband and I have owned a home in Tenakee Springs for over 26 years. I am concerned about the size and scope of the proposed Xunaa Borough and its impacts on the Tenakee Springs community. I generally agree with the comments and recommendations made by the City Council and Mayor of Tenakee Springs stated in their resolution and subsequent letter.

This plan places Tenakee Springs in an "exclusion zone" tightly surrounded by land and water included in the proposed borough. "Exclusion zone" designation is appropriate for several reasons. Hoonah and Tenakee seem to share little. We are not connected by roads (nor do we want to be), regular ferry or air service. Hoonah does not now nor would they easily provide vital services to Tenakee residents in the future. Hoonah is not the economic hub for Tenakee Springs. We do not share a view of our future.

Being excluded from the proposed borough is not the issue. The issue is that the proposed boundaries completely surround and isolate the communities of Tenakee Springs, Pelican and Gustavus. The new borough boundaries may prevent small communities from expanding their own boundaries enabling "reasonable predictable growth" in the future. I am also concerned that Tenakee would have a very small voice in decisions made by regulators and property owners concerning the use of the lands and waters claimed by another community that completely surround us. As proposed the Xunaa Borough would even include the watershed for Tenakee's partially completed hydroelectric plant and watersheds that provide drinking water to many residents of Tenakee.

Tenakee Springs is a community that is very dependent on the health of the inlet and its watersheds. We depend on this resource for subsistence hunting and fishing, for commercial fishing and charter operator businesses and jobs and for shared fish tax income. The area's beauty lures a small number of visitors who choose to come to our very unique community. I feel that large scale logging and industrial scale tourism that Hoonah now depends on and promotes would adversely impact Tenakee Inlet and our chosen way of life.

As submitted, I urge the LBC to reject the Xunaa Borough proposal. Unless rejected, at a minimum I would like to see that the watersheds on Tenakee Inlet's north-shore and all the waters of Tenakee Inlet be excluded from any proposed Xunaa Borough.

Thank you,

Karen Crandall