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Local Boundary Commission

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Commission, Boundary (CED sponsored)

From: Dana [rdthynes@gci.net] **Sent:** Mon 10/24/2011 10:15 AM
To: Commission, Boundary (CED sponsored)
Cc:
Subject: Public Comment on the Petersburg Borough Petition referencing 3 AAC 110.055, Resources
Attachments:  [Anti-Petersburg-Borough Petition\(1\).pdf\(78KB\)](#)

----- Original Message -----

From: [Dana](#)
To: brent.williams@alaska.gov
Sent: Sunday, October 23, 2011 11:29 PM
Subject: Public Comment on the Petersburg Borough Petition referencing 3 AAC 110.055, Resources

Brent Williams
Division of Community & Regional Affairs
Department of Community, Commerce, and Economic Development
550 West 7th Avenue
Suite 1770
Anchorage, AK 99501-3510

Dear Mr. Williams and staff members of the Local Boundary Commission,

In this comment, I would like to focus on 3 AAC 110.055, Resources .

"In accordance with AS 29.05.031 (a)(3), the economy of a proposed borough must include the human and financial resources necessary to provide the development of essential municipal services on an efficient, cost-effective level. In this regard, the commission

- (1) will consider
- (J) personal income of residents within the proposed borough; and

- (2) may consider other relevant factors, including

(B) a reasonably predictable level of commitment and interest of the population in sustaining a borough government."

There is no evidence of great support for the proposed borough. On the contrary:

When the City of Petersburg initiated their petition process, it took them over 6 months to get the signatures they needed. When I started my personal "push-back" petition, the Petition to Preserve the Alaskan Way of Life (it is attached to this letter), in less than 5 weeks I and supporters collected 300 signatures from people inside & outside of town.

We encountered much timidity and wariness from those who agreed with our desire for NO borough government, but were afraid of a backlash from the City of Petersburg. Because of that fear, I am not sending the Local Boundary Commission my stack of signed petitions, because in this public process, those names would be made known.

This comment is also a protest against the notion of there being a necessity to oblige with the desire of others to herd into an organized borough with self-interested authorities over us, when we have harmed no one, and indeed, brought the city of Petersburg only benefit in the form of our in-town business along with the sales taxes that go with that.

To my mind, and in the eyes of many others, the borough process is not a fair procedure or even a good statute. It is not a just and equitable statute that allows 15% of a small group -- the number who voted in the last election -- to open the door to a process that the other 85% oppose.

It seems that when the state constitution was set up, planners looked forward to greater and greater use of Alaska's resources, and so made allowances for the local government to grow to keep pace, through borough governments. But Alaska is still like a dependent child to the federal government, or even a welfare recipient – unable to use our resources and thus waiting for handouts from the government to make up the difference. This entitlement mentality has affected Alaskans, so that even when the local city government recently found it necessary to make repairs of their own boardwalk city streets, they wouldn't commence repairs until a grant came through from the federal government.

We're not getting the economic growth... but we're getting the government! And now many people assume that the growth of government precedes growth of the economy. Not so.

There is no one in the outlying areas of the borough who escapes the hand of government or the imposition of taxes. For many if not most of us, to be forced to be a part of Petersburg's borough would impose double jeopardy – we already pay property taxes on properties we own within the city of Petersburg. At least for those properties, we receive water, electricity, and police and fire protection. (Unless you live at the annexed area of Point Frederick East, where the City of Petersburg has been imposing a full millage rate since the early 1980's, with no services at all.)

Petersburg does not pretend to offer those on the outside any services. They just want our additional tax dollars in order to "ensure continuity of services," as one spokesman put it, which means that they have spent beyond their means and now want others to share their burden of maintaining the status quo, and paying for new services.

Thank you,

Dana Thynes
City of Kupreanof
Kupreanof Island

Petition to Preserve the Alaskan Way of Life

Independence, Autonomy, Self-sufficiency, Peace and Quiet, At Home with the Land

The City of Petersburg, Alaska, is circulating a petition for formation of a Petersburg Borough which would capture into its boundaries remote properties, the owners of which have not asked for services from the City of Petersburg, and have chosen to live a self-sufficient lifestyle so unique to Alaska.

The proposed Petersburg Borough would provide no tangible benefit to these same property owners, as the borough planners have themselves admitted. Though no new services would be provided, the property owners would be compelled under threat of foreclosure to pay additional taxes, since the Borough of Petersburg would have ultimate title to their land, home, outbuildings and personal property. Additionally, their properties would be subject to planning and zoning regulations in which they would have little or no voice.

I wish to register my opposition to this undemocratic process of forced annexation, which can be initiated and thrust upon me and others by the signatures of a tiny minority of residents.

Submitted by Dana Thynes, Mailing Address P.O. Box 2047, Petersburg, Alaska 99833, Physical Address City of Kupreanof, Kupreanof Island, Alaska, this date of March 29, 2011

Signers of this petition should be residents or property owners of the area encompassed by the current proposed Petersburg borough initiative. Please sign only once.

Name:	Signature & Printed	Mailing Address	Physical Address	Date
1.	_____	_____	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____	_____	_____
7.	_____	_____	_____	_____
8.	_____	_____	_____	_____
9.	_____	_____	_____	_____
10.	_____	_____	_____	_____
11.	_____	_____	_____	_____
12.	_____	_____	_____	_____
13.	_____	_____	_____	_____
14.	_____	_____	_____	_____