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Commission, Boundary (CED sponsored)

From: Ione and Bob Lynn [iblynn@alpineclimbs.com]

Sent: Tue 10/25/2011 3:07 PM

To: Commission, Boundary (CED sponsored)

Cc:

Subject: comments from Cathy Villasenor

Attachments:  [Cathy's b letter.doc\(37KB\)](#)

Comments attached

R E C E I V E D
OCT 25 2011
Local Boundary Commission

October 25, 2011

Local Boundary Commission Staff
550 W Seventh Ave., #1770
Anchorage, AK 99501-3510

Re: City of Petersburg's Notice of Filing of Borough Petition

The following are my comments against the formation of a borough as the current petition reads.

I own property both inside and outside Petersburg's current City limits. I have had my permanent residences at both locations. The home I have in Petersburg was also the sight of a bed and breakfast business that I maintained while living in town. I am still a current member of the Chamber of Commerce and have participated in Chamber activities.

After reading and researching many of the petition's sections, I find the document to be lacking in data that explains Petersburg's position. I believe there is major work yet to be done before we are ready to make the leap into a borough.

The area *population continues to decline*. School enrollment has also declined. It has gone in recent years from over 700 to just over 400 students. State funding for schools is based on headcount (through a complicated formula), so Petersburg has lost funding. Census numbers and voter registration show that the area *population is declining*, from 3,000 to just over 2600. To me this indicates *instability*.

The population of the area is not interrelated because of a lack of shared values. In an area the size of the proposed borough there is not a uniform and consistent means of communication. Although cell towers have been upgraded with a new signal in recent years, they don't provide cell phone service or internet in most of the outlying areas.

The City has not included financial data that shows they are ready to take on a vast and more complex form of government. The funds they show allocated for computer related databases, software packages and tax collection is not nearly adequate. There are still many more Petersburg projects in the pipeline that will add to the expenses. These projects and their costs are not shown or explained.

The area is too large and too diverse to adequately provide representative government. In short, it is my observations that the City is moving too fast. Improving Petersburg's economy is key to deciding when the area will be ready to move forward with the development of a borough. Until that time arrives the area is best served in an unorganized borough.

Sincerely,
s/ Cathy Villasenor
Cathy Villasenor