

APR 21 2006

Local Boundary Commission

April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2006

Dan Boekhorst and members of the  
Local Boundary Commission:

This is a written comment to notify you of certain statements in the Ketchikan Gateway Borough petition submitted to you, the Local Boundary Commission that I find to be inaccurate and misleading.

I would like to mention also that the residents of Meyers Chuck/Union Bay have always been strongly opposed to being in any organized borough, but if forced to choose between the Ketchikan Gateway Borough or the Wrangell Borough, we unanimously believe that the community of Wrangell would respect and reflect our best interests and remote lifestyles than the Ketchikan community.

Please take into consideration that if the Con Bundy Senate Bill 112 was to pass in legislature, that would take care of the education tax, which has been a major focal point of both the Ketchikan and Wrangell communities for annexing and taxing the area of Meyers Chuck/Union Bay. The residents of Meyers Chuck/Union Bay would rather remain in an unorganized borough and pay the head tax for education as a first choice. But if that isn't an option we are unanimous to be in a Wrangell borough over a Ketchikan borough.

Section 5 - page 5 - "Support Orderly Growth and Development"

I have kept in close communication with Kurt Freeman with several phone calls concerning the drilling for platinum at the Union Bay site.

He claims that joint venture partner Lonmin PLC has notified Freeport Ventures Limited and Pacific Northwest Capitol Corp. that it will not fund further exploration of the Union Bay area.

All of the drilling equipment has been removed from the Union Bay site, the crew camp has been removed and no contingency plans were filed with the Forest Service for further exploration.

Section 5 - pg. 6 "Provide greater local fiscal responsibility"

The only school in Meyerschuck was sold to private individuals and there are no children in Meyerschuck/Union Bay area

Section 18 - page 23 - c

The people of Union Bay have satellite radio. The telephone service in Meyerschuck is through Prince of Wales. The cell phone service is through Anchorage. Our T.V. service is Direct T.V. Satellite T.V. not through Ketchikan.

### Section 18 page 23-F

The natural geography of Meyers Chuck/Union Bay has more in common with the Wrangell geography. The protected waters going between Wrangell and Meyers Chuck/Union Bay are more logical from a safety viewpoint.

It is much safer to go by boat to Wrangell from Meyers Chuck/Union Bay, the entire route is enclosed protected waters for provisions than the open unprotected waters of Clarence Strait to get to Ketchikan by boat.

The possibility of getting "stuck" in Ketchikan because of weather for a week is not unusual for a large part of the year; then there is the added cost of having to stay in a hotel room for \$69.00 and up depending on the season.

### Section 18-page 24 J

It is not in the best interest of Meyers Chuck/Union Bay residents to be in the Ketchikan Borough.

Socially, the residents of Meyers Chuck/Union Bay have more in common with Wrangell. The pace of our communities are more like Wrangell's. We have a history of a subsistence lifestyle in common with Wrangell.

### Exhibit D-page 32-

- No one in Union Bay gets the "Ketchikan Daily News"

- No one in Union Bay gets "The Local Paper"

- No one in Union Bay gets "Sit News"

- The "Island News" from Thorne Bay is available

at the Meyers Chuck Post Office

Exhibit E - page 41 - "Limiting Geographic Features"

The Ketchikan Gateway Borough keeps trying to justify using Loring and Moser Bay as a parallel to the communities of Meyers Chuck/Union Bay. They are entirely different in several aspects.

Geographically, Loring and Moser Bay are in a skiff of moderate speed, a 20 or 30 minute ride in protected waters to the Clover Pass area, where they have access to the Ketchikan road system by vehicle to pick up goods, use services or have a job.

Here, we live several hours by boat to Ketchikan and we have to travel the open unprotected waters of Clarence Strait to use the same facilities.

There is no feasible way to have a job in Ketchikan from our area of Meyers Chuck/Union Bay as someone from Loring or Moser Bay could do.

Exhibit H - page 53 - "Conclusion"

The communities of Meyers Chuck/Union Bay do not have more in common socially, culturally, and geographically with the Ketchikan Gateway Borough than the Wrangell Borough.

The Meyers Chuck/Union Bay residents who have commercially fished have delivered in Wrangell, used the Wrangell boat shop for repairs and maintenance, use the barge system for large and bulk items sent from

the lower 48. We get fuel, propane and groceries frequently from Wrangell or Thorne Bay on Prince of Wales Island.

Commercial and subsistence fishermen have ties to the Union Bay area for salmon, halibut dungeness crab and spot prawns.

Socially, the lifestyles of Meyers Chuck/Union Bay residents are more similar to those of the Wrangell community than those of Ketchikan.

Exhibit H-page 59-B - Again the same rebuttal as made to Exhibit H-page 53 "Conclusion"

Exhibit H-page 60-B - 2nd paragraph

Referencing our use of the Ketchikan Airport - I called Alaska Airlines and was told that people from Wrangell, Sitka, Petersburg + Juneau all have use of the Ketchikan airport to reboard a different flight in Ketchikan to go to the lower 48. Also residents of Prince of Wales and all the outlying areas use Ketchikan as a "hub" airport.

We also use Wrangell and Prince of Wales for most of our goods and services.

Exhibit H-page 62

I understand that even though the Ketchikan Gateway Borough was notified that the platinum mine was a definite "NO" for Union Bay, the Borough still sent forth to the Local Boundary Commission

their petition not correcting this assumption.

Exhibit H - page 63 - C

As stated before, we use satellite radio, satellite T.V. and do not receive any of the newspapers generated in Ketchikan out here in Union Bay.

Exhibit H - page 68 - Paragraph "The Borough maintains"

We, the residents of the Meyerschuck/Union Bay communities have more in common socially, culturally and geographically with the Wrangell community than the Ketchikan community. We feel that Wrangell would more accurately reflect and represent our remote lifestyle and keep the integrity of our Meyerschuck/Union Bay communities as they are now.

It is vital that the Local Boundary Commission consider how unanimously the residents of Meyerschuck/Union Bay are opposed to being in the Ketchikan Borough if we are forced to make a choice between the Wrangell Borough and the Ketchikan Borough.

Sincerely,

Debbie Johnson - (Debbie Johnson) - Resident of Union Bay - 19 yrs.  
Brad Johnson - Brad Johnson - Resident of Union Bay - 19 yrs.  
Kurt Brodersen - Kurt Brodersen - Resident of Union Bay for 19 years  
RORY BIFOSS - Rory Bifoss - Union Bay  
Maxon Bifoss - Maxon Bifoss - Union Bay - 4/17/07