

Tim & Donna Collins
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April 18, 2006

Local Boundary Commission

RE: Annexation of MEYERS CHUCK
into Ketchikan Gateway Borough

We strongly oppose becoming aligned with and governed by the Ketchikan Gateway Borough.

Our history in Meyers Chuck goes back to 1970 when we came as summer visitors. Later Donna ^{owned} ran the local store, post office, fish buying and in 1978 was elected to represent Meyers Chuck on the Southeast Island School Board. At that time Meyers Chuck had a strong hand troll fleet, 12 children in grades K-12 and seemed to be a growing community.

Today, almost 20 years later, there is no commerce in Meyers Chuck, other than a cooperative Art Gallery selling a low volume of wares, the School is closed and has been sold as a private dwelling and there are NO children. It has become a "summer" home to the majority of residents - only seven people were here last mail day.

So what do we have in common with Ketchikan? Absolutely nothing. If we must be under a borough government it would make much more sense to be aligned with Wrangell.

It has a lifestyle more in tune with ours. In fact ~~two~~ for three former Meyers Chuck residents live there - or four !!

Meyers Chuck is made up of hardy, rugged individuals who live primarily a subsistence lifestyle, retirees and a few that still fish. One commuter.

The Wrangell Borough is our choice. Let Ketchikan have the timber but let us keep our simple lifestyle without need for roads, the "big city" of Ketchikan's ideas of what we might want.

Plus, it is much safer to navigate from here to Wrangell to a meeting of our governing body than to Ketchikan!

Sincerely,

Jim & Donna Collier