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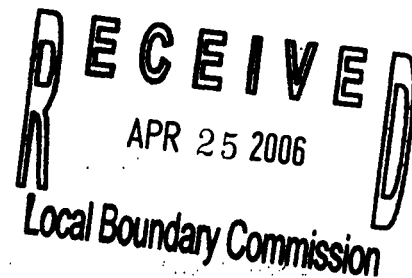
FAX -

To: 907-269-4539
3 PAGES INCLUDING COVER

- LOCAL BOUNDARY COMMISSIONS

From: D. Higgins / C. BROWN

RE: KETCHIKAN GATEWAY BOROUGH ANNEXATION PROPOSAL -



April 25, 2006

Dan Higgins & Carol Brown
Harbor Point
Meyers Chuck, AK 99903

Local Boundary Commission
550 West Seventh Avenue, Suite 1770
Anchorage, AK 99501-3510

Re: Ketchikan Borough Annexation Proposal

Dear Commissioners,

We have recently purchased property and moved to Meyers Chuck after many years of visiting the community and getting to know other residents. We have reviewed the annexation petition prepared by the Ketchikan Borough and recommend that the Boundary Commission vote against the proposal as submitted for the following reasons:

- The proposal fails to recognize the economic and social composition of the community. This is reflected in the fact that the proposal does not identify any needs of Meyers Chuck community that would be met by annexation into the urban borough. This is most clearly demonstrated in the mandatory role of the borough as described in Section 14 – Borough Powers And Functions

Education – School budgets, location of buildings, construction and repairs: There are no school age children in the community and all of the land, buildings and improvements of the former school owned and operated by the Southeast Island School District have been sold. The SEISD board elected to sell their facilities after they concluded that there would be no need for educational services in the foreseeable future.

Taxes – Property, sales and transient occupancy taxes: There are no transient accommodations in the community, and only one small art cooperative providing little economic return. Property taxation would place a severe impact on the residents who have no job opportunities in the community.

Land Use: Zoning and subdivisions are not issues pertinent to the community at this time or in the foreseeable future. The community is comprised of less than 50 developed parcels, all residential in nature. They are connected by footpaths or are water accessible only. There are

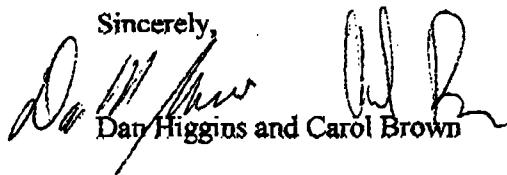
no vehicles, no need for roads, bridges, bus service or airports. Furthermore, there are no proposed industrial, agricultural, high rise, high density, retail, or other developments that could necessitate any form of land use planning

The proposal goes on to state that the Borough anticipates that if and when community services such as dock maintenance, solid waste disposal, wastewater treatment and disposal, or water treatment and distribution should be needed, the community will organize and pay for such services ourselves. One must wonder what indeed is the need for the borough or the justification for taxation if no services will be provided under the proposal.

- At this time, Wrangell is developing an alternative annexation proposal. Some members of the Meyers Chuck community have met with representatives of Wrangell and preliminarily it appears that incorporation into this new borough would be more consistent with the Constitutional requirement that a borough embrace an area and population with common interests. The Ketchikan proposal addresses this concern in that they have elected to hold in abeyance annexation of the only other community within their model boundary, Hyder. Similarly, Meyers Chuck is physically remote, has limited social or economic ties to Ketchikan, and has no more need for services from the Ketchikan Borough than any other community in the area. We feel it would be a great disservice to Meyers Chuck as well as Wrangell if the Commission approves annexation of Meyers Chuck into the Ketchikan Borough without first considering the Wrangell proposal, which you will be receiving shortly.

Thank you for your careful consideration of these issues. Your decision will have long term, significant impact on our community. It is not one to be made without considering all alternatives.

Sincerely,


Dan Higgins and Carol Brown