

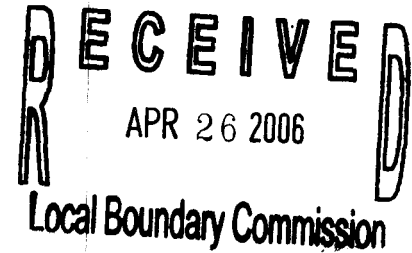
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April 24, 2006

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



Dear Commission Members,

The Hyder Community Association of Hyder, Alaska submits the following comments in opposition to the annexation petition of the Ketchikan Gateway Borough (KGB). We believe the proposed annexation of approximately 4,701 square miles should be rejected by the LBC for the following reasons:

1) Lack of a Community of Interests

The petition as drafted includes a large area of land where there exists little or no community of interests and little prospect for any to develop due to the land status as wilderness. We believe the US Forest Service can manage the Misty Fiords National Monument competently without KGB planning, educational institutions, library services or animal control.

We believe the KGB should expand their boundaries incrementally out from the existing boundary as the community of interests develop or there exists a certain prospect for development that requires Borough services. Just because a large area of wilderness is included within the KGB model boundaries does not render it ripe for annexation when the area has no population or land use issues that can benefit from the intervention of Borough government.

2) Financial Hardship on Service Providers Within the Unorganized Borough

The lack of any community of interests with the area proposed for annexation, and little or no population or development to serve, makes the redistribution of National Forest receipts the primary KGB argument in favor of the annexation. We believe the loss of revenues by agencies serving the Unorganized Borough such as the Southeast Island School District will be a great injustice.

Mile "0" Alaska / Yukon Highway

3) The Expansion of Local Government Without Cause is Unwise. We believe it would be unwise to expand the KGB as proposed absent any legitimate reason to do so, any population to serve, any need for Borough services or any land use issues that can benefit from Borough oversight. We believe that the KGB has a sufficient local government workload in managing the area they have now and that it is premature to consider expanding. Expansion should be considered when a local government has the resources, expertise and service history to benefit the area to be annexed.

Due to the lack of community of interests and any legitimate reason for the expansion the Hyder Community Association strongly recommends that the LBC reject the annexation petition of the Ketchikan Gateway Borough.

Sincerely,



Carol Denton
President
Hyder Community Association