

Subject: Ketchikan Gateway Borough annexation plan
From: Sheila and Shawn <matilda@kpunet.net>
Date: Wed, 26 Apr 2006 06:15:03 -0800
To: lbc@commerce.state.ak.us

To whom it may concern:

I am writing in regards to the Ketchikan Gateway Borough's plan to annex more territory, including remote areas such as the Unik River, Union Bay and Meyer's Chuck. I am a property owner in Meyer's Chuck and I am opposed to the idea of being annexed, charged an unreasonable mill rate, considering the "services" that will be provided, and do not want to be aligned with Ketchikan at all. When I'm in Meyer's Chuck, I travel to Thorne Bay for gas, food and other goods. It is a much easier trip to make than to Ketchikan. The lifestyle in Meyer's Chuck is better suited for the community to be aligned with other, small communities, rather than the 4th largest town in the state. While I am not opposed to paying tax for schools I do not want to contribute any more money to the Ketchikan Gateway Borough. I already pay borough taxes for property in Ketchikan that has no dwelling and no services. The way Ketchikan has mispent taxpayer money is embarrassing and frustrating (i.e. Schoenbar School disaster, Gateway Forest Products funding, Ward Cove industrial site, etc.). We have also been misled. In January, the public was invited to attend a borough meeting to comment on annexation. After four hours of public testimony against annexation (only one comment was for the annexation as proposed), we were told the public would have the chance to vote on the matter. At the next meeting, the vote of the people was taken away.

We live in Meyers Chuck to be away from Ketchikan's style of government. Ketchikan Gateway Borough would provide no services that we want. No one in Meyers Chuck wants to be associated with a Ketchikan Gateway Borough. We do not want planning and zoning. If we use the library, we pay a library fee. We pay sales taxes when we shop there.

If we are going to be forced to join the KGB, we should at least be deemed a 'no service area' and be taxed accordingly (the lowest millrate, 4 mills). Assemblyman John Harrington attempted to propose this to the borough but was not given the chance before submittal to the LBC.

Please do the right thing and help to assure that Meyers Chuck remains a small remote Alaskan town. Do not let Ketchikan get away with ramming this down our throats without any compromising in their obvious rush to grab land for reasons of greed. Allowing this annexation plan will be aiding Ketchikan in taking timber receipts from small communities like Craig.

I hope that the Local Boundary commission can consider the comments of the remote property owners and ensure that these remote properties are annexed by a city or borough that best fits their needs in keeping with the lifestyle. In the case of Meyer's Chuck, that would be Wrangell or Thorne Bay.

Thank you for your time,
Shawn McAllister