

Subject: KGB annexation comments

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To: lbc@commerce.state.ak.us

I have lived in Ketchikan over 30 years. I find it disappointing that the Ketchikan Gateway Borough officials continue to pursue the annexation of a large area of land surrounding Revillagigedo Island, including the tiny community of Meyers Chuck, when even the townspeople such as myself are against it, not to mention the residents of the outlying areas who will not gain any benefits for their increased taxes. Unless property is accessible via the road system, there are no "services" that the Borough can offer property owners. And, there are no "Borough services" that outlying residents desire from the Ketchikan Gateway Borough. If it's more money the Borough thinks they need, it would be more fair to increase taxes for us actual residents, than to unfairly burden the people who have chosen the difficulties (and rewards) of living remotely rather than within the jurisdiction of our politically biased, greed-motivated, non-responsive Borough government. The Borough should not railroad the outlying residents into this situation against their wishes. In addition, "robbing Peter to pay Paul" in Southeast - that is, increasing our federal take at the expense of nearby unincorporated boroughs, sends a mighty un-neighborly message to those nearby communities. Southeast Alaska provides a beautiful and unique environment with enough room to allow people to choose a remote and independent lifestyle such as at Meyers Chuck, or to live in a more urban setting such as within Ketchikan. Please honor those differences and the rights of those who have chosen to live remotely and who would gain absolutely nothing from the increased "territory grab" by the Ketchikan Gateway Borough, and disallow this particular annexation effort. I believe that the "unincorporated borough" should be allowed to continue to exist in that format, as a valid entity, without being the subject of periodic tug-of-wars by urban governments such as Ketchikan Gateway Borough.