4/14/01

To: Division of Community & Business Development
AK. Department of Community & Economic Development
From: B. Long, Box 1088, Talkeetna, AK 99676
(note box number change)
Subject: Comments on Preliminary Report to the Local Boundary Commission Regarding the Amended Petition to Incorporate the Home Rule City of Talkeetna

1. It is interesting to note that the majority of public comment at all times to the incorporation petition has been in opposition. In fact, there are only two public commenters that have been in support of incorporation.
If there is community support for this petition, where is the evidence for it? It seems that the only reason this process moves forward is because the process was started.

2. DCED throughout the preliminary report downplays the official concerns of the Mat Su Borough in regard to the reality of the solid waste disposal being done by Talkeetna, the breakup of Road Service Area #29 and other issues. The borough comments reflect my concerns.

3. DCED DID NOT consider adequately whether incorporation will have extraterritorial powers.
As DCED correctly stated on page 28, over 26,000 acres in the

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Greater Talkeetna area were DISPOSED of in various programs between 1968 through 1988. The majority of these lands are in roadless areas and the land use is seasonal, recreational and of a remote lifestyle. What happens in Talkeetna affects these lands particularly if the Talkeetna City Council promotes intense commercialization of lands outside their boundaries or adjacent.

Trails to these lands are within the proposed city boundaries and trail use which is access for these lands can be negatively impacted by incorporation.

ALSO those residents in the greater Talkeetna Road Service Area 29 that will be left outside the boundaries will pay a higher mill rate due to the splitting of the area. That is a negative impact.

4 The proposed budget of the petitioners I believe severely underestimates many of the costs to deliver municipal services. Where are the estimates for equipment purchases, infrastructure & facility maintence & improvement? Where is the budget for the staff and operation costs for the Animal Control Services.

There are many unresolved questions and the budget needs to be re-examined.

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My concern is that the services an incorporated Talkeetna would take over will be negatively impacted.
Also as a landowner within the incorporation boundaries but not within the flood control area, I don't want to have to pay for flood control.

5. I question whether there is enough of a stable population to support city government. There is tremendous seasonal disparities.
Yes, there has been tremendous growth and development in Talkeetna within the last decade. But the economy in general was booming.
With a downturn in the economy will there be the population or revenue or tax base to support a city government and the services it has taken over. I don't believe there will be.

For all the above reasons, I oppose incorporation and a proposed year round 3% sales tax or 4% seasonal sales tax.

B. Long

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