


ALASKA LEGISLATURE COMMITTEE LEGS 2007 2000 0072
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IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF THE KETCHIKAN
GATEWAY BOROUGH FOR LEGISLATIVE REVIEW ANNEXATION
OF APPROXIMATELY 4.701 SQUARE MILES TO THE KETCHIKAN
GATEWAY BOROUGH

COMMENTS ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF CRAIG AND THE PRINCE
OF WALES COMMUNITY ADVISORY COUNCIL, IN RESPONSE TO
THE PRELIMINARY REPORT OF THE STAFF OF THE DEPARTMENT
OF COMMUNITY, COMMERCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT


Jon Bolling, Craig City Administrator, and
Prince of Wales Community Advisory Council Chairman

9/4/07
Date

I. INTRODUCTION

On April 16, 1999, the Local Boundary Commission (hereafter LBC) denied the Annexation Proposal of the Ketchikan Gateway Borough because "the proposal fails to serve all the relevant principles established in the Constitution of the State of Alaska." (Statement of Decision, 1999, p. 14) The 1998 Annexation Proposal petitioned to annex essentially the same uninhabited area as the present proposal and it excluded the communities of Hyder and Myers Chuck. The current petition excludes the community of Hyder.

To accept KGB's petition, the LBC must find that it meets "the relevant principles established in the Constitution." The 1998 Proposal did not do so because Hyder was excluded.¹ Thus, the LBC's proper course in order to be consistent with the principles established in the Alaska Constitution is to deny this petition because, again, Hyder is excluded.

The City of Craig does not advocate that the LBC should require KGB to amend the Petition to include Hyder. KGB has been emphatic in its refusal to include Hyder. Equally as emphatic have been the residents of Hyder against being annexed by the KGB. The proper constitutional decision is to deny the Petition for the same constitutional reasons the LBC denied the 1998 Proposal. The Alaska Constitution has not changed. The Alaska Supreme Court has not entered any decision since 1999 upon which the LBC could rely to reverse its 1999 decision. Therefore, the City of Craig respectfully requests that the LBC reject the recommendation of the Preliminary Report, and deny the Petition.

¹ Myers Chuck was also excluded. However, the LBC left no doubt in its Statement of Decision that the reason that the 1998 Proposal did not meet constitutional standards was the exclusion of Hyder. There is no suggestion that the Proposal would have been accepted, and thus found constitutional, by the LBC, if the Proposal had included Myers Chuck, but not Hyder.

II. LBC STAFF'S RECOMMENDATION TO "APPROVE THE KGB PETITION WITHOUT CONDITION OR AMENDMENT IS CONTRARY TO THE LBC'S DECISION IN 1999 AND CANNOT BE RECONCILED WITH THAT DECISION OR STAFF'S RECOMMENDATION IN 1998

The 1998 Petition by the KGB is functionally identical to this Petition except as follows:

1. Myers Chuck would be annexed under this Petition;
2. The boundaries creating the Hyder "enclave" would not divide a natural drainage.

Of significance, none of the factual basis for the LBC's denial of the 1998 Petition has changed. The LBC noted in denying the 1998 Petition:

1. KGB refused the invitation of the LBC to amend its Petition to include Hyder and Myers Chuck (Statement of Decision, 1999, p. 3);
2. "Residents of Meyers Chuck and Hyder have expressed strong opposition to being included in a borough and the Borough has expressed little interest in annexing those communities. **Such an arrangement would poorly serve the State's long-term interests.**" (Statement of Decision, 1999, p. 8, emphasis added);
3. "If the Borough's annexation proposal were approved, the Borough would have little or no incentive to further extend its boundaries to include Hyder and Myers Chuck." (Statement of Decision, 1999, p. 8);
4. "...the constitution calls for boundaries to embrace an area of common interests to the maximum degree possible. Without Myers Chuck and Hyder, this standard cannot be met." (Statement of Decision, 1999, p. 11);

5. "...the Borough's annexation proposal significantly undercuts its own ability to effectively address planning needs by excluding Myers Chuck and Hyder."
(Statement of Decision, 1999, p. 12);
6. "The State would be left with the responsibility for the education of students in those communities. The State currently contracts directly with the school district in Stewart, British Columbia for the education of Hyder students." (Statement of Decision, 1999, p. 12);
7. "Because the annexation petition excludes Hyder and Meyers Chuck, the Commission considers the proposal to fail in terms of promoting maximum local self-government." (Statement of Decision, 1999, p. 13);
8. "Further, the proposal fails to serve all relevant principles established in the Constitution of the State of Alaska." (Statement of Decision, 1999, p. 14).

None of these circumstances have changed since 1999. KGB again deliberately excludes Hyder. Without addressing a single significant changed fact or circumstance, the Preliminary Report now recommends that the Petition be approved.

1. KGB has again refused to include Hyder in the area proposed to be annexed.

It is apparent that the LBC found it significant that the 1998 annexation proposal did not include Hyder. The LBC gave the KGB the opportunity to amend the petition to include Hyder. It refused. Seven years later it files another petition deliberately excluding Hyder. The reality is that the KGB will never voluntarily annex Hyder. Given the expense that would be involved, meaning it would have to provide schools and other mandatory borough services, why would it if it can annex the uninhabited lands, receive

approximately an additional \$1,200,000 in National forest receipts revenue, and not have to provide services?

LBC staff's conclusion that the LBC's interpretation of Article X, Section 1 of the Alaska Constitution is "unduly restrictive" is wrong, biased, and indefensible.

(Preliminary Report, p. 17) In the absence of changed facts, which there are none, and none were identified in the 117 page Preliminary Report, the LBC should not change its interpretation of the Constitution solely because of an unsupported new legal opinion offered by LBC staff.²

2. The residents of Myers Chuck and Hyder remain unanimously opposed to annexation.

The Preliminary Report acknowledges that the residents of Myers Chuck and Hyder remain adamantly and unanimously opposed to annexation by KGB. In conjunction with KGB's adamant opposition to annexing Hyder, the long-term state's best interests again would be "poorly served" by allowing the annexation without Hyder. These facts are the same as used by the LBC to deny the Petition in 1998, and no basis is shown in the Preliminary Report that changes the importance of these facts to the LBC. They were important in the denial of the petition in 1999; they should be equally important in denying this petition.

3. If the petition is approved, KGB will have no incentive to annex Hyder in the future.

² The LBC has access to the Department of Law for legal opinions regarding the interpretation of the Alaska Constitution. If there has been an opinion from the Department of Law that the LBC has been interpreting the Constitution in an "unduly restrictive" manner, the LBC should make that opinion part of the record.

The LBC was correct in 1999. Why would KGB annex Hyder and have to provide schools and all mandated borough services if it could obtain all of the additional National Forest receipts revenues through this annexation and avoid the expense of providing services? The Preliminary Report has no answer. Indeed, the Report essentially acknowledges that KGB will never annex Hyder. In order to justify the fact that KGB is never going to annex Hyder, LBC staff came up with the new concept of creating official enclaves within boroughs, completely contrary to the historical position of the LBC. What is particularly disconcerting about LBC staff's new position is that the \$1,200,000 that would go to KGB upon annexation, with no corresponding obligation to provide services, will result in a direct loss of school funding dollars to the other Southeast Communities who do have the obligation to provide schools, such as the City of Craig. The LBC was honest in its assessment in 1999—KGB has no incentive to annex Hyder. The LBC should be honest again in 2007—KGB still has no incentive to annex Hyder if this petition is approved.

4. The Constitution has not changed—the KGB petition cannot meet the constitutional standard to embrace an area of common interests to the maximum degree possible without the annexation of Hyder.

Despite 25 pages of discussion, primarily related to snippets of the Constitutional Convention, and LBC staff's disagreement with the decision of the Superior Court in *Petitioners for the Dissolution of the City of Skagway and the Incorporation of the Skagway Borough v. Local Boundary Commission*,³ the Report fails to cite to a single fact or changed circumstance such that this constitutional standard can now be met without the annexation of Hyder.

³ 1JU-02-0124 CI, September 20, 2005)

The Preliminary Report goes so far as to recommend that the LBC change the words of the Constitution. The Preliminary Report states that this constitutional standard is satisfied if "the post annexation boundaries of the borough would embrace a population that is interrelated and integrated with respect to social, cultural, an economic characteristics and activities." (Preliminary Report, p. 115) That is not what the Constitution says or mandates. As applied to this petition, the statement is meaningless. This Petition would "embrace" a population of no more than 25 people, probably only 14. Article X, Section 2 cannot be so lightly disregarded. The LBC stated clearly in 1999 that, without Hyder, the Constitutional standard could not be met. The LBC's application and interpretation of the Constitution was correct. The LBC did not say that without "Hyder or Myers Chuck, one or the other" the Constitutional standard could not be met. The LBC should not reinterpret such an important Constitutional mandate without any new facts or new circumstances that would justify such a significant shift in the historical interpretation of this provision of the Constitution by the LBC.

5. The exclusion of Hyder continues to undercut the ability of the KGB to meet its own planning needs.

In "considering the best interests of the State of Alaska," in its 1999 decision, the LBC stated clearly that the planning needs of the proposed borough, as annexed, must include Hyder. As the only community in the area of the KGB model boundaries with roads, schools, land use issues (commercial, industrial, and residential development), and tourism growth, the planning needs in the nine years since that decision have increased, not decreased. Thus, the planning needs have increased. These are the facts. In considering these facts in 1999, the LBC rejected the proposed annexation without Hyder. In order to reverse its 1999 decision, without being totally arbitrary and

capricious, the LBC must cite to new facts that warrant approval of the petition, in the "best interests of the state," without the inclusion of Hyder.

The Preliminary Report does not provide any new facts upon which the LBC could rely to reverse its 1999 decision. The preliminary report makes the remarkable statement that "creating the 205-square mile Hyder enclave would not initially impede 'the full development of essential borough services on an efficient, cost-effective level.'" (Preliminary Report, p. 88) The annexation proposal does not include any land or community that needs "services." By excluding Hyder, it goes without saying that the services presently provided by the State in Hyder "would not be impeded." The Preliminary Report is saying that since the annexed area has no need for services, the exclusion of Hyder would not "impede" the "full development" of no services! As a constitutionally created body, with a mandate to act in the best interests of the State, how can the LBC act in a constitutional manner and reverse its 1999 decision on such a basis? A reversal of its 1999 decision would be arbitrary and capricious if the LBC adopts the double-speak of the preliminary report.

6. The state will continue to be left with the responsibility for providing education services to Hyder students.

It is a simple fact that this proposal does not relieve the State of any of its current responsibilities and obligations in the area proposed to be annexed. The important obligation is the provision of school services. It cost money to provide school services in Hyder. KGB wants the additional \$1,200,000 in yearly revenues, and does not want to have to spend any of it on providing any services in the area to be annexed, in particular it wants no part of providing school services in Hyder. This was a significant factor in the LBC's recommendation against the proposal in 1998. It was a significant factor in

the LBC's denial of the petition in 1999. Nothing has changed. Hyder needs a school system. The state provides the school system.⁴ KGB does not want to have the obligation of providing the school system. The proposal excludes Hyder so that KGB does not have to provide educational services in Hyder. What facts are the LBC going to rely on to reverse the 1999 decision and now say it is in the best interests of the State to continue to require the State to provide the educational services in Hyder and yet allow KGB to annex all the uninhabited land and collect the additional \$1,200,000 annually? None are advanced in the Preliminary Report.

The people of the State have to rely on the Commissioners to maintain constitutional and policy consistency, that is, to again deny this Petition based on the same best interests of the state and constitutional principles as resulted in the 1999 Decision.

7. The exclusion of Hyder continues to mean that the petition does not promote maximum local self-government.

Promoting maximum local self-government is a constitutional mandate for consideration of a borough proposal. (Article X, Section 1) As the LBC stated in its 1999 Decision, "the annexation proposal seeks to add 99.6 percent of the area within the Borough's model boundaries not already within its corporate boundaries, but excludes 87.7 percent of the residents of that area." The current petition, which includes Myers Chuck, but still not Hyder, continues to essentially grab all the land, but take no responsibility for the people. As the Preliminary Report states, the population of Myers

⁴ The school system in Hyder is provided by the Southeast Island School District at state expense.

Chuck is reported at 14, but is probably less. Therefore, the same factual scenario is presented to the LBC as the one rejected by the LBC in 1999.⁵

The LBC upheld the Article X, Section 1 mandate in 1999 by properly denying the annexation proposal because it excluded Hyder. The LBC has no basis to conclude that the mandate of Article X, Section 1 can now be satisfied by granting a petition for nearly the same area that still excludes Hyder.

8. With the exclusion of Hyder, the petition again fails to serve all relevant principles established by the Alaska Constitution.

We continue to stress that nothing has changed since the LBC concluded that KGB's annexation of this area, without including Hyder, fails to serve all the relevant principles established by the Alaska Constitution. (Statement of Decision, 1999, p. 14)

The Constitutional principles have not changed. The best interests of the state standard has not changed. The LBC's constitutional obligations to all the people and the communities in the state—including the people and communities in the unorganized borough—has not changed. Hyder remains the only community in the area that needs essential services. Hyder remains the only community in the area where the State is presently providing all the essential services that would be provided by a borough. And, KGB continues to exclude Hyder from the proposed annexed area. Based on the facts and the Constitution, the LBC's decision must remain the same, and deny the Petition. There is no conceivable Constitutional basis, and no benefit to the State, for the LBC to reverse its 1999 Decision.

⁵ The Preliminary Report remarks that the inclusion of Myers Chuck in this petition is a "notable" difference from the 1998 proposal. We assume the LBC staff used the word "notable" only to signify a technical difference, not that the inclusion of Myers Chuck while excluding Hyder is meaningful in any sense.

III. LBC STAFF'S STATEMENT THAT THE ALASKA CONSTITUTION MANDATES ANNEXATION HAS NO BASIS IN THE CONSTITUTION OR ALASKA CASE LAW

Article X, Section 3 of the Alaska Constitution states: "The entire State shall be divided into boroughs, **organized and unorganized.**" (emphasis added) The Constitution does not say that the State must be divided into only "boroughs." The Constitution is silent as to annexation of lands in the unorganized borough. The Constitutional article further states: "Methods by which boroughs may be organized, incorporated, merged, consolidated, reclassified, or dissolved shall be prescribed by law." Again, the Constitution does not mention annexation. By its plain language, Article X, Section 3 does not equate the formation of a borough with annexation of land from the existing unorganized borough by an already formed borough. The Constitution does encourage the formation of boroughs, as stated by the Alaska Supreme Court in *Mobil Oil Corp. v. Local Boundary Commission*.⁶ The Alaska Supreme Court did not say that the Constitution encourages the formation of boroughs or the annexation of land in the unorganized borough by an already formed borough. The new Constitutional interpretation offered in the Preliminary Report would rewrite the Constitution, and deny important Constitutional protection to the people in the unorganized borough.

The Preliminary Report does not cite to any Alaska Supreme Court case that interprets the Constitution as mandating or encouraging the annexation of lands in the unorganized borough by an existing borough. We are not aware of any. Both under the Constitution and the "balanced best interests of the state" standard (19 AAC 10.200), annexation is not the same as the formation or incorporation of a borough.

⁶ 518 P. 2d 92 (Alaska 1974)

In *Port of Valdez Co., Inc. v. City of Valdez*, the Alaska Supreme Court noted that the LBC had a statutory duty to develop standards for "borough annexation."⁷ If the formation of boroughs and the annexation of land in the unorganized borough were the functionally the same acts under Article X, Section 3 of the Alaska Constitution, there would be no need for mandated annexation standards. The Alaska Supreme Court would not specifically point out that there are "three purposes underlying the statutory requirement of annexation standards."⁸ Principles related to constitutional interpretation and statutory interpretation require that provisions and statutes not be read as superfluous. By imposing a separate legislative requirement related to annexation standards, and with the Alaska Supreme Court specifically noting the distinction of annexation, the formation of boroughs and the annexation of land in the unorganized borough by an existing borough, are not constitutionally the same.

Despite lengthy quotes from the Alaska Constitutional Convention, the preliminary report fails to quote anything that equates borough formation under the Constitution with the annexation of land in the unorganized borough by an existing borough. Importantly, the Preliminary Report quotes a draft version of Article X, Section 3 of the Constitution, which was not adopted. (Preliminary Report, p. 25) The draft version of Article X, Section 3 would have divided the state into boroughs—there is no mention of unorganized boroughs. By rejecting that draft version, the delegates made a clear choice to provide constitutional status to the unorganized borough (s).

The Preliminary Report fails to address the constitutional issues of Article X, Section 3 as to the annexation of land in the unorganized borough by an existing borough.

⁷ Preliminary Report of DCRA, October 1998, p. 25, quoting 522 P. 2d 1147, 1155 (Alaska 1974)
⁸ 522 P. 2d at 1155

In the Preliminary Report prepared by the same LBC staff person in 1998, the Report concluded that the KGB proposal, without Hyder, "would seriously diminish the significance of this principle" [referencing Article X, Section 3]. (Preliminary Report, 1998, p. 80-81) The "principle" embodied in Article X, Section 3 has not changed. The only thing that has changed is that the same LBC staff person recommends ignoring the Constitutional principle of Article X, Section 3 for reasons not explained anywhere in the report. The LBC staff went on record in 1998 stating unequivocally that annexation of this area without Hyder violated the principles of Article X, Section 3. The LBC agreed in its 1999 decision. The LBC has the obligation to the State to maintain its consistency in the interpretation and application of constitutional principles, and as such, must again deny this Petition because it excludes Hyder.

Rather than be consistent in the interpretation of Article X, Section 3 advanced and followed by the LBC staff in 1998, the Preliminary Report ignores Article X, Section 3, and argues that Article X, Section 1 makes "no distinction" between borough formation and the annexation of land from the unorganized borough by an existing borough. (Preliminary Report, p. 16) The Report cites to two Alaska Supreme Court cases involving the interpretation of Article X, Section 1. (Preliminary Report, p. 14). Neither of those cases involved the issue of whether the standards for annexation of land from the unorganized borough by an existing borough is encouraged or mandated by the Constitution in the same manner as the formation of boroughs. Indeed, the Report highlights that section of the *Mobil Oil* case that specifically says "Our constitution encourages their creation." (Preliminary Report, p. 15, underlining in Report, bold emphasis added) Without citation to any other case, or even to anything from the

constitutional convention, the Preliminary Report states: "borough incorporation and borough annexation are equally encouraged by article X, section 1, whenever the applicable standards are satisfied." This interpretation of the Constitution offered in the Preliminary Report is not supported by the language of the Constitution, existing Alaska case law, and the applicable statutes and regulations.

Because the people and communities of the unorganized borough are afforded specific constitutional status and protection, the LBC cannot constitutionally equate borough formation with the annexation of land from the unorganized borough by an existing borough. In particular, the LBC cannot accept a tortured interpretation of Article X, Section 1, such that annexation can be used as a vehicle to increase its National Forest Receipts revenues without in fact minimizing local government units.

The KGB petition neither maximizes "local self-government" nor minimizes "local government units." It is undisputed that none of the area to be annexed has any need for "local self-government." It is also undisputed that the area to be annexed does not "minimize" the local government units because Hyder, which does need borough services, is excluded and may incorporate as a city—thus increasing the local government units. Nothing from the Constitutional convention would be supportive of the interpretation of the Constitution offered by the LBC staff, that is, the Constitution encourages borough formation and the annexation of land in the unorganized borough equally, regardless of the detrimental impact on the people and communities in the unorganized borough, and particularly the devastating loss of school funding in those communities.

The Constitutional significance of creating boroughs is specifically to provide necessary services that are currently being provided by the State. Thus, when an area seeks to form a borough, it must provide necessary services, such as schools. That is why the formation of boroughs is encouraged by Article X, Section 1 and Section 3. The Constitution cannot be similarly interpreted to encourage the annexation of land from the unorganized borough by an existing borough which does not provide any necessary service, particularly schools, in the proposed annexed area, and will in fact seriously impair the provision of school services by the communities in the unorganized borough directly as a result of the annexation. The KGB petition will not provide any necessary services in the area to be annexed, and thus, cannot satisfy the purpose and intent of Article X, Section 1 and 3 of the Alaska Constitution.

**IV. LBC STAFF'S STATEMENT THAT THE LBC HAS A POLICY
ALLOWING THE CREATION OF ENCLAVES IS CONTRARY TO
THE LBC'S 1999 STATEMENT OF DECISION**

In its Statement of Decision denying the KGB annexation proposal in 1999, the LBC stated: "The annexation proposed by the Borough create [sic] enclaves. The Commission has a formal policy to avoid enclaves within boroughs as reflected in 19 AAC 10.200(2)." (Statement of Decision, 1999, p. 13) The present Petition creates a Hyder enclave. (Preliminary Report, p. 86) LBC staff admit that the Haines Borough is the only borough in the state with an enclave—Klukwan. (Preliminary Report, p. 87) LBC staff admit that the creation of the Klukwan enclave was a "public policy" issue that "would not exist with respect to the proposed Hyder enclave." (Preliminary Report, p. 88) Thus, there is no "public policy" impediment to the inclusion of Hyder in the KGB. Therefore, the approval of this Petition with a Hyder enclave would be the first enclave

ever created by the LBC where it is admitted that no reason exists at all for the enclave except that KGB does not want the obligation of providing services to Hyder. Rather than evidencing a historical "policy" of creating enclaves, approval of this Petition would contravene the Constitution, applicable statutes, the regulations, and every prior decision of the LBC with respect to the analysis of enclaves proposed as part of a borough formation or annexation. The preliminary report offers no reasonable or persuasive reason for such a dramatic reversal of LBC policy and precedent.⁹

LBC staff's "conclusion" that the Hyder enclave "should be annexed to the KGB" if "a Prince of Wales Island Borough were formed," fundamentally ignores the regulation precluding enclaves and makes the condition of annexation of Hyder unrelated to any Constitutional, statute or regulation related to borough formation or annexation. Hyder is in the KGB borough boundaries, constitutionally, statutorily, and in accordance with LBC regulations. It is under those standards that this Petition must be reviewed. There is no constitutional provision, statute or regulation that allows an existing borough to annex land in the unorganized borough, specifically excluding the only populated area, under the novel hypothetical concept that if some other area is later formed as a borough, then the enclave "should" be annexed. By what mechanism? The LBC staff does not explain how the LBC can force or order or direct that Hyder be annexed by the KGB if a Prince of Wales Borough is formed. Equally as important, there is no standard in the

⁹ As addressed below, the Preliminary Report was written by LBC staff person, Dan Bockhorst. Mr. Bockhorst has applied for the position of Ketchikan Gateway Borough Manager. Without question, he has a substantial conflict of interest. It cannot escape the scrutiny of the LBC, nor will it escape the scrutiny of the Alaska courts, that the Preliminary Report authored by Mr. Bockhorst recommends that the LBC reverse its historical policy on enclaves, which will benefit the KGB directly by allowing it to receive an additional \$1,200,000 annually without the provision of any services at all in the annexed area because of the creation of the Hyder enclave. As a minimum, the LBC should, in fairness to the people of the State as whole, and the people in the Southeast communities in the unorganized borough, hire an independent staff person, who has never worked for DCCED or Mr. Bockhorst, to prepare a new Preliminary Report.

Constitution, statutes, or regulations which allows the KGB the benefit of excluding Hyder from its borough until other communities form a different borough—which would not include Hyder. The impact of the LBC's staff recommendation is clear—if the LBC approves this Petition, Hyder will never be annexed into the KGB. The Preliminary Report misrepresents the historical policy of the LBC against creating enclaves, and then creates a fictional “possibility” of later annexation of Hyder that the LBC staff, and the LBC, knows will never happen. Therefore, the LBC should continue to maintain its historical policy against enclaves, clearly stated in the 1999 decision, and deny this Petition.

V. THE LBC MUST TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE CONFLICT OF INTEREST OF THE LBC STAFF PERSON WHO PREPARED THE PRELIMINARY REPORT IN ASSESSING WHY LBC STAFF HAS CHANGED ITS POSITION AS TO THE KGB PETITION

The LBC is a “quasi-judicial” body, according to the Preliminary Report. (Preliminary Report, p. B-4) The LBC must provide a fair hearing and review of petitions, according to the Preliminary Report. (Preliminary Report, p. B-4) The Preliminary Report acknowledges that Alaska courts will review decisions of the LBC “to determine whether a fact finder has shown bias such as prejudgment of the facts or issues or a personal bias for or against an issue or a participant in the proceeding.” (Preliminary Report, p. B-4)

A judge is required not only to avoid bias and avoid any impropriety, a judge must avoid the appearance of bias and the appearance of impropriety. For example, it would be an unquestionable appearance of impropriety if a judge's law clerk prepared a memorandum for the judge with a recommended decision in favor of one party in a case

where the law clerk was seeking employment with that party. The LBC is in no different situation.

The author of the Preliminary Report wants to be employed by the KGB as its Borough Manager. The Preliminary Report was completed as of June 30, 2007. The Borough position became open in June of 2007, when the KGB Borough manager resigned.

It cannot be disputed that this Preliminary Report represents a complete reversal of the recommendation of the same LBC staff in its Preliminary Report in 1998. It also cannot be disputed that nothing has changed except this petition includes Myers Chuck—a totally inconsequential change under the Alaska Constitution, applicable statutes, applicable regulations, and the best interests of the state standard. The Preliminary Report fails to offer any distinguishing Constitutional or factual reason for the reversal of the LBC staff position. If the LBC considers this Preliminary Report and approves the Petition, the appearance of bias and impropriety will undoubtedly result in judicial review of the decision.

The LBC has two choices. It can reject the recommendation of the LBC staff, and deny the Petition because that would be the factually and legally correct decision. The denial of the Petition would be consistent with the Constitutional principles the LBC is obligated to uphold and apply. The denial of the Petition will be consistent with the 1999 Decision.

The second choice is for the LBC to remove the Preliminary Report from the record and to retain an independent consultant to prepare a report not tainted with the appearance of bias and conflict of interest enveloping this Preliminary Report.

We urge the LBC to carefully scrutinize this problem. The people of this State are entitled to not only a fair decision that is in the best interests of the state, the people of the State are entitled to a decision that all can feel is free from any potential bias or conflict. Under the circumstances presented by the author of the Preliminary Report having applied to be the KGB borough manager, and having recommended the approval of this Petition—a complete reversal from the same author's position in 1998 on annexation of this area without Hyder—the people of this State cannot have any confidence in a decision being free of bias if the LBC relies on the Preliminary Report and approves the Petition.

VI. THE PETITION CANNOT MEET THE BEST INTERESTS STANDARDS WHEN THE PRELIMINARY REPORT ADMITS THAT THE STATE WILL BE REQUIRED TO CONTINUE TO PROVIDE ALL NECESSARY SERVICES TO HYDER AND THE ANNEXATION WILL NOT RELIEVE THE STATE OF ANY RESPONSIBILITIES

The Preliminary Report acknowledges that the best interests of the standard applies to the proposed annexation of land from the unorganized borough to the existing KGB, including by legislative review, pursuant to 3 AAC 110.195. (Preliminary Report, p. 100) In order to be in the best interests of the State, the petition must demonstrate that the proposed annexation “will relieve the state government of the responsibility of providing local services. (3 AAC 110.195(3)) LBC staff identifies two “areas” “in which the KGB would relieve the State of responsibility of providing local services...Those are education and platting.” (Preliminary Report, p. 92)

After admitting that the proposed annexation will not in fact result in the provision of education services in the area proposed to be annexed, the LBC staff notes that in 2011 the KGB required local contribution to its existing school system, may increase by

\$15,197. (Preliminary Report, p. 93) LBC staff then acknowledges this potential increase is "not particularly significant." (Preliminary Report, p. 94) Unexplainably, the next sentence reads: "Thus, KGB provides a significant financial relief to the State in terms of responsibility for delivery of education services. (Preliminary Report, p. 94) The alleged "financial relief" to the state of \$15,197 cannot be both "not particularly significant" and "a significant financial relief."

The Preliminary Report fails to discuss the burden that remains on the State by KGB not annexing Hyder. That burden on the State is currently approximately \$174,000 to provide education services in Hyder, and can only be projected to go up. In essence, without any discussion, rationale, or reasoning, LBC calls the \$15,000 increase in KGB's school contribution "significant relief" to the State, and makes no characterization of the \$174,000 State must expend because KGB does not want the responsibility of providing the school system in Hyder. Similarly, LBC makes no comparison of the \$15,000 increase in 2011 in KGB's school contribution with the more than \$1,000,000 additional revenues KGB will get annually. The \$15,000 contribution is less than 10% of what the State will continue to pay to serve Hyder. The \$15,000 contribution is approximately 1% of the additional National Forest receipts KGB will receive, and KGB would receive nearly four additional years of the dramatically higher receipts before even paying the additional \$15,000 school funding contribution. The Preliminary Report fails to offer any actual analysis of the best interests of the state standard under A.S. 29.06.040(a) and 3 AAC 110.195(3).

The Preliminary Report devotes all of three sentences to how the petition will supposedly relieve the state of "plating" responsibility and this aspect of the application

of 3 AAC 110.195(3). Without identifying any potential planning, platting, or land use regulation necessary within the proposed annexed area, LBC staff concludes that "the power and duties for platting within the area proposes for annexation would shift from the State to the KGB." (Preliminary Report, p. 94) That the "powers and duties" would shift is a given—what is important under the best interests standard is how this proposed annexation in fact relieves the state of "the responsibility of providing local services." (3 AAC 110.195(3). The state does not provide any local services in the proposed annexed area, including platting. No local services would be provided by the state in the foreseeable future. KGB does not propose to provide any local services in the area to be annexed, nor does it anticipate providing any local services in the foreseeable future. 3 AAC 110.195(3) cannot be met by KGB agreeing to provide nothing in the area where nothing is currently provided and nothing is needed. 3 AAC 110.195(3) is stated in the affirmative and with mandatory language—"will." "Will" this petition "relieve the state government of the responsibility of providing local services?" The answer is factually and legally easy—the record is undisputed—the answer is a resounding no.¹⁰

VII. THE PETITION CANNOT BE CONSTITUTIONALLY IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE STATE WHEN THE ONLY REASON FOR THE ANNEXATION IS TO GARNER OVER \$1,000,000 ANNUALLY IN FEDERAL FUNDS THAT PRESENTLY IS DISTRIBUTED THROUGHOUT THE COMMUNITIES OF SOUTHEAST ALASKA AND NO SERVICES WILL BE PROVIDED BY KGB IN THE ANNEXED AREA WITH THOSE FUNDS

¹⁰ The proportion of private land in the area proposed to be annexed is so small that if a private land owner sought some platting service in the future, it would be such minimal relief to the State that it could not properly be characterized as the State being relieved of the burden of providing local services. If the cost savings would be a benefit to the State, the Preliminary Report would have quantified the benefit.

The City of Craig is very concerned about the impacts on the school children of Craig and all the Southeast communities in the unorganized borough if the LBC approves the petition request submitted by the Ketchikan Gateway Borough.

1. National Forest Receipts Revenues

We believe the LBC is well aware of the financial impacts to the communities and school districts of the unorganized borough that will result from the proposed annexation. The proposed annexation will remove up to \$1.2 million annually from the budgets of regional school districts and transfer that funding to the KGB, whose proposed annexation would add exactly zero students to the KGB School District.¹¹ This impact was not anticipated when the model borough boundaries were adopted because communities like Craig, which have precisely the same legal obligation to support local schools as do boroughs, did not receive NFR payments until 1993. The entire model borough boundary issue should be revisited and revised to account not just for the NFR impacts, but for other relevant issues that may have changed since 1992.

2. Best Interest Finding

The Best Interest Findings section of the preliminary report fails to properly apply the provisions of 3 AAC 110.980. The report does not reasonably weigh the impacts of the proposed annexation on affected local governments nor does it relieve the state of significant financial obligations that could otherwise be assumed by the KGB. In addition, the report fails to note that proposed annexation also reduces state revenues.

¹¹ LBC staff's discussion of the amount of national forest receipts that will be transferred to the KGB as a result of this petition is identical to the its discussion of the amounts in 1998. LBC staff ignores what has actually been received by the communities during the intervening nine years. The loss to the communities, and corresponding windfall to the KGB is in fact closer to the \$1,200,000 than LBC staff's "projection" of "roughly \$286,000 annually." To use that substantially lower figure is not justified, misleading, inaccurate, unreasonable, and unfair.

A) Provision of Local Services – 3 AAC 110.195(3)

The preliminary report fails to recognize the financial detriment to the State of Alaska should the annexation be approved. The proposed annexation does not relieve the State of Alaska of the cost to deliver state services in proportion to the area subject to annexation. The petition seeks the financial benefits that the annexation will bring but rejects including in the annexation the four percent of the model borough boundary that would bring with it the responsibility typically required of local government: education funding. The petition proposes to annex 4,701 square miles of the area within the KGB model borough boundaries, but exclude the 205 square miles of the model borough boundaries that would require the actual delivery of local government services. The result of this is that the State of Alaska, through the Southeast Island School District REAA, will continue to be responsible for the full \$174,000 cost of educating the 16 students in Hyder. Were this area included in the annexation petition, the state's obligation would be reduced by the borough's four mill equivalent requirement.

While the petition proposes to avoid the cost of providing education to Hyder, the petition would also reduce revenue to the State of Alaska to provide those same education services. Currently the state receives national forest receipts funding that provide education funding to the three REAAs in Southeast Alaska. The Preliminary Report fails to account for this loss of state funding, which would have totaled more than \$280,000 in the current fiscal year. Ironically, this funding loss occurs because the approval of the petition increases the KGB's national forest receipts funding at the expense of the State of Alaska.

B) Affected Local Governments – 3 AAC 110.980(2)(B) and (C)

The preliminary report fails to account for the losses suffered by affected local governments as called for in 3 AAC 110.980(2)(B) and (C). The reduction in education and other funding that will result from the proposed annexation is substantial, as shown below.

Home Rule	FY 2007	Income Loss	Income Loss	Income Loss
	Ed. Receipts	Ed. Funding	Road Funding	Project Funding
Petersburg	\$ 914,381	\$ 201,164	\$ 15,236	\$ 41,806
Wrangell	\$ 571,788	\$ 125,793	\$ 7,963	\$ 25,840
First Class				
Craig	\$ 594,437	\$ 130,776	\$ 6,380	\$ 26,497
Hoonah	\$ 257,409	\$ 56,630	\$ 6,209	\$ 12,140
Hydaburg	\$ 112,085	\$ 24,659	\$ 4,230	\$ 5,581
Kake	\$ 179,336	\$ 39,454	\$ 9,566	\$ 9,470
Klawock	\$ 209,638	\$ 46,120	\$ 7,028	\$ 10,268
Pelican	\$ 25,087	\$ 5,519	\$ 896	\$ -
Skagway	\$ 168,900	\$ 37,158	\$ 8,222	\$ 8,767
Second Class				
Angoon	-	-	\$ 5,294	-
Coffman Cove	-	-	\$ 10,698	-
Gustavus	-	-	\$ 20,659	\$ 3,956
Kasaan	-	-	\$ 5,831	-
Port Alexander	-	-	\$ 861	-
Tenakee Springs	-	-	\$ 1,721	-
Thorne Bay	-	-	\$ 23,847	\$ 4,566
REAA'S				
Annette Island	\$ 537,333	\$ 118,213	\$ 23,677	\$ 19,140
Chatham	\$ 368,934	\$ 81,165	-	\$ 13,141
Southeast Island	\$ 373,545	\$ 82,180	-	\$ 13,306
Total Annual Loss		\$ 948,832	\$ 158,317	\$ 194,477
Aggregate loss of funding				\$ 1,301,626

Every affected local government that has commented to date on this proposed annexation has gone on record in opposition, due to severe impacts to education funding. These comments demonstrate that there is broad agreement among the affected local governments that public interests are not served by the proposed annexation. For its part, the preliminary report fails to address how the losses detailed above, losses that negatively impact twelve school districts, sixteen cities, and 2,700 K-12 public school

students, are in the best interests of the State. When weighing the claims of the preliminary report against the multiple community statements against the proposed annexation, it is not reasonable or fair for the LBC to ignore the specific academic harm identified by the communities of the region.

LBC staff offers no justification at all for recommending the transfer of nearly \$1,200,000 per year in academic funding presently shared by sixteen cities and twelve school districts in Southeast Alaska to the Ketchikan Gateway Borough with absolutely no increase in either the number of students to serve or education services in the Ketchikan Gateway Borough. LBC staff offers no justification at all for not only recommending that the KGB be the recipient of this additional \$1,200,000, at the expense of all the other Southeast Communities in the unorganized borough, but in addition, recommending the exclusion of Hyder from the annexation even though Hyder is within the model borough boundaries and Hyder does have education services presently provided and paid for by the State. The LBC must carefully scrutinize why LBC staff has so dramatically changed its recommendation from 1998, even though the annexation petition is essentially identical, and neither the facts supporting the denial nor the reasons supporting the denial by the LBC in 1999 have changed.

VIII. CONCLUSION

The people of the State of Alaska should expect, and receive, fairness and consistency from the LBC. The Constitution is the Constitution—it cannot be manipulated to achieve a desired result. The best interests of the State standard for annexation of land from the unorganized borough is also a constant—it should not be manipulated to achieve a desired result.

What possible constitutional, statutory, regulatory, or best interest of the State reason can the LBC rely on to approve this Petition, with Hyder excluded, after having rejected the nearly identical petition as not justifiable under the Alaska Constitution because Hyder was excluded in the 1998 annexation proposal? The LBC will not find an answer to that question in the Preliminary Report.

Despite a 117 page report, with attachments, the LBC staff is not able to cite to a single comment from any person or community in this State in support of this Petition. All comments we are aware of to date in response to the Petition oppose the Petition. The LBC has a Constitutional obligation to consider the voice of a unanimous people against this Petition.

We request that the LBC reject the recommendation of the LBC staff and deny the annexation petition of the KGB.

Sonya
H

Sonya Hymer

From: Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux
Sent: Wednesday, February 13, 2008 11:17 AM
To: Peter Caffall-Davis
Subject: RE: HJR 30 - Please Disapprove the LBC recommendation regarding annexation of territory to the KGB

Dear Mr. Caffall-Davis,

Thank you for calling in yesterday. Your participation will also be valuable to the Committee in next Tuesday's meeting. Here is the telephone number to call to participate: 1 888 295 4546. A member of my staff or else staff in Representative Anna Fairclough's office will be in touch with further details in advance of Tuesday's meeting.

Best regards,

Gabrielle

Representative Gabrielle LeDoux
State Capitol
District 36
phone: (907) 465-2487
fax: (907) 465-4956

From: Peter Caffall-Davis [pcaffalldavis@starband.net]
Sent: Wednesday, February 13, 2008 9:12 AM
To: Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux
Subject: Re: HJR 30 - Please Disapprove the LBC recommendation regarding annexation of territory to the KGB

Dear Representative LeDoux,

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to participate in yesterday's HJR 30 hearing. When you learn the time for the proposed workshop on this bill I'd appreciate your letting me know how to dial in and attend for that one as well.

The Hyder Community Association supports me as the point man for Hyder regarding this annexation issue. The majority of Hyder citizens have also granted tacit approval allowing me to speak on their behalf in the absence of other citizens.

I would welcome the opportunity to listen in and possibly participate in the upcoming workshop. It seems that questions regarding Hyder always crop up as part of this annexation and I welcome the opportunity to speak to those questions.

I believe my input might be helpful and important. A good bit of the

2/13/2008

published official Alaska State information referenced in the KGB annexation proposal on Hyder was incorrect. The LBC Commissioners note some of the mistakes. Items like land area, population, per capita income, and household income are all grossly incorrect. In addition I'd be able to answer questions about the communications and relationship between KGB and Hyder throughout the annexation process over the past seven years.

Thank you so much for taking the time to listen to Representative Bill Thomas' resolution and the public input yesterday.

Cordially,

**Peter Caffall-Davis
Hyder, Alaska 99923
250 636-2594**

We're all here 'cause we're not all there!

55°54'58.36"N 130° 1'45.27"W

Paste into Google Earth, turn on Terrain, and tip her back to see the mountains. That's home! Elevation 6', better than 6' under!

----- Original Message -----

From: Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux

To: Peter Caffall-Davis

Sent: Monday, February 04, 2008 10:47 AM

Subject: RE: HJR 30 - Please Disapprove the LBC recommendation regarding annexation of territory to the KGB

Dear Peter,

Thank you very much for your comments. As you may know, we expect to hold a hearing and take public testimony on HJR 30 on Tuesday, February 12, at 8 a.m.

Best regards,
Gabrielle

Representative Gabrielle LeDoux
State Capitol
District 36
phone: (907) 465-2487
fax: (907) 465-4956

From: Peter Caffall-Davis [pcaffalldavis@starband.net]

Sent: Saturday, February 02, 2008 10:21 AM

To: Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux

Subject: HJF 30 - Please Disapprove the LBC recommendation regarding annexation of territory to the KGB

**Dear Representative LeDoux,
Co-Chair - Community and Regional Affairs Committee**

I urge you to please support HJR 30, send the resolution from committee for a vote, and Disapprove the LBC recommendation regarding the annexation of territory to the Ketchikan Gateway Borough (KGB). Not even one of the parties involved has been in favor of this annexation from the beginning (other than the KGB).

None of the affected parties have had an opportunity to vote in this matter, nor under the Legislative Review Method of annexation will they ever. It is our only hope that you as our other elected representatives take this matter into your hands and call for a vote on our behalf.

Should the legislature fail to act and bring this to a vote, the annexation will automatically become law after 45 days of inaction by the legislature. I believe the 45 days will expire on March 5th. Passage through inaction by the Legislature will result in negative financial impact to several rural Southeast Alaska communities and school districts. For Hyder it will result in the closure of our school.

There are more things wrong with this annexation that can be spell out here but I urge you to please send HJR 30 out of committee for a vote and please support it by voting to Disapprove the LBC recommendation regarding the annexation of territory to the Ketchikan Gateway Borough.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact me.

Thank you,

Peter Caffall-Davis of Hyder

We're all here 'cause we're not all there!

55°54'58.36"N 130° 1'45.27"W

Paste into Google Earth, turn on Terrain, and tip her back to see the mountains. That's home! Elevation 6', better than 6' under!

HJR

30

(FILE 2)

2/2/08

Honorable Gabrielle LeDoux, co-Chair
Honorable Anna Fairclough, co-Chair
State House of Representative
Community and Regional Affairs Committee
State Capitol, Room 412
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Honorable LeDoux + Fairclough:

I respectfully request the support of the Alaska State House Community and Regional Affairs Committee support of HJR 30, which has been introduced by Representative Bill Thomas opposing the annexation by the Ketchikan Gateway Borough (KGB). I understand that if this resolution passes the Alaska state legislature, Ketchikan will be prevented from annexing approximately 4701 miles of the unorganized borough in South East Alaska in the immediate future.

I have crucial concerns regarding the adverse financial impact this annexation would have on the Annette Islands School District in Metlakatla, the Craig City Schools, Hydaburg School District, Southeast Island and Klawock School Districts on Prince of Wales, as well as other communities.

Please accept this letter in support of opposing the annexation by the Ketchikan Gateway Borough and in support of House Bill HJR 30.

2/2/08

Allowing Ketchikan to obtain a \$1,200,000 windfall in federal forest receipt funds with no resulting obligation to provide any additional public or educational services to the 4,700 square miles of uninhabited land KGB is seeking to annex while causing irreparable harm to regional communities and school districts on Prince of Wales and Annette Islands not only in the loss of forest receipt revenues, but Payment in Lieu of Taxes - PILT revenues, the impact of PILT revenue loss will be immediate. Prince of Wales Districts will lose about one half of their PILT funding if the annexation is approved.

Prior to permitting the Ketchikan annexation to become law, the state legislature must appoint an independent committee to review the very real perception that there has been a conflict of interest surrounding the Local Boundary Commission - LBC decision as it concerns a former high ranking LBC staff who was influential in making staff recommendations to the LBC regarding this current recommendation in favor of Ketchikan's annexation application which is indirect opposition to and overturned the 1999 annexation decision, prior to securing a five year contract at a six figure salary with the Ketchikan Gateway Borough as the new Ketchikan city manager. Thank you for your efforts and support on this matter.
Respectfully, *Solomon Walker* Solomon Walker BX 765 Metlakatla

2-2-08

Honorable LeDoux + Fardough:

Please accept this letter as support IN OPPOSITION
of Annexation by the Caledonia Delay Board
and in support of HB. HJR 30

Respectfully

Liz M. Long
Bryon Hugnerd.

P. O. Box 466
Metlakatla, AK 99926
2 February 2008

Honorable Gabrielle LeDoux, Co-chair
Honorable Anna Fairclough, Co-chair
State House of Representatives
Community and Regional Affairs Committee
State Capitol, Room 412
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative LeDoux and Representative Fairclough:

I am writing you to request that the Alaska State House Community and Regional Affairs Committee support HJR 30 introduced by Representative Bill Thomas. It is my understanding that if this resolution passes the legislature then Ketchikan will be prevented from annexing the unorganized borough lands in southeast Alaska.

I have been employed by the Annette Islands School District as a teacher at Metlakatla High School since 1997. During this time I have witnessed the enormous strides made by the students in this district in becoming productive citizens of our community, state, and nation. If the proposed annexation by Ketchikan proceeds as currently planned our school district, as well as other school districts in southeast Alaska, will suffer great financial harm. For the benefit of our current and future students, I am opposed to the proposed annexation. I respectfully request your support for HJR 30. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,



Robert Salisbury

January 30, 2008

Honorable Gabrielle LeDoux, Co-chair
Honorable Anna Fairclough, Co-chair
State House of Representative
Community and Regional Affairs Committee
State Capitol, Room 412
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Honorable LeDoux & Fairclough:

My name is Angela Sweringen and I am writing you today to respectfully request the support of the Alaska State House Community and Regional Affairs committee of Bill HJR 30, which has been introduced by Representative Bill Thomas opposing the annexation of the Ketchikan Gateway Borough. I understand that if this resolution passes the Alaska state legislature, Ketchikan will be prevented from annexing approximately 4,701 miles of the unorganized borough in South East Alaska in the immediate future.

I have crucial concerns regarding the adverse financial impact this annexation would have on the Annette, Islands School District in Metlakatla, the Craig City Schools, Hydaburg school District, Southeast Island and Klawock school Districts on Prince of Wales, as well as other regional communities.

Please accept this letter in support of opposing the annexation of the Ketchikan Gateway Borough and in support of House Bill HJR 30.

Allowing Ketchikan to obtain a \$1,200,000 windfall in federal forest receipt funds with no resulting obligation to provide any additional public or educational services to the 4,700 square miles of uninhabited land KGB is seeking to annex while causing irreparable harm to regional communities and school districts on Prince of Wales and Annette Islands. Not only in the loss of forest receipt revenues, but Payment in Lieu of Taxes revenues, the impact of PILT revenue loss will be immediate. Prince of Wales districts will lose about one half of their PILT funding if the annexation is approved.

Prior to permitting the Ketchikan annexation to become law, the state legislature must appoint an independent committee to review the very real perception that there has been a conflict of interest surrounding the LBC decision as it concerns a former high ranking LBC staff who was influential in making staff recommendations to the LBC. Regarding this current recommendation in favor of Ketchikan's annexation application which is in direct opposition to and overturned the 1999 annexation decision, prior to securing a five year contract at a six figure salary with the Ketchikan Gateway Borough as the new Ketchikan city manager.

As a mother of children who attend and will attend the Annette Island school District, I urge you to please oppose the annexation of the Ketchikan Gateway

Borough. As a member of the Metlakatla Indian Community we have had hard times put upon us due to the loss of the sawmill and our cannery. We now have a very high unemployment rate and now the state wants to take money away from our children? This with out a doubt has to be stopped, please for the sake of our children and future children, put a stop to this.

Thank you for your time concerning this matter.

Sincerely,


Angela Sweringen

January 30, 2008

Marsha L Shearer
P.O. Box 249
Metlakatla, Alaska 99926

Honorable Gabrielle LeDoux, Co-Chair
Honorable Anna Fairclough, Co-Chair
State House of Representative
Community and Regional Affairs Committee
State Capitol, Room 412
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Honorable LeDoux & Fairclough:

I respectfully request the Alaska State House Community and Regional Affairs support the HJR 30 which has been introduced by Representative Bill Thomas which opposes the annexation of the Ketchikan Gateway Borough. I understand that if this resolution passes the legislature, Ketchikan will be prevented from annexing the unorganized borough in the immediate future. I feel that the annexation would create adverse financial conditions for the Annette Island School District in Metlakatla as well as the schools on Prince of Wales. Please accept this letter of support opposing the annexation of the Ketchikan Gateway Borough. Allowing Ketchikan to obtain 1,200,000. windfall in Timber Receipts without providing any additional educational services to the 4,500 square miles of land they are seeking to annex will cause irreparable harm to school district on Prince of Wales and Annette Island. I feel that an independent impact study should be made before any action is taken concerning the annex.

Thank you for your efforts and support on this matter.

Respectfully,


Marsha L Shearer

METLAKATLA SENIOR CITIZENS
Metlakatla, Alaska 99926

January 30, 2008

Honorable Gabrielle LeDoux, Co-Chair
Honorable Anna Fairclough, Co-Chair
State House of Representative
Community and Regional Affairs Committee
State Capitol, Room 412
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Honorable LeDoux & Fairclough:

We respectfully request the Alaska State House Community and Regional Affairs support the HJR30, which opposes the Annexation of the Ketchikan Gateway Borough.

We have concerns regarding the adverse - Financial Impact that Annexation will have on our Schools- Metlakatla, Craig, Hydaburg, Southeast Island and Klawock on Prince of Wales and other Districts in the Region.

This will allow Ketchikan a big "piece of the pie" in Timber Receipts. They will have no Obligation to provide additional educational services to districts.

Thank you for your efforts and support.

Respectfully,

Senior Citizens of Metlakatla Senior Center

Janet Guthrie
Dorothy Bergamaschi
Hiana Williams
Lydia M Fawcett
Michelle A Blanton
Arnold S Booth
Sophanna Bolter
Bernita Brunick

William S. Reese
Gudy Hudson
Conrad R. Bush
Mitchell Rereik
Dorcas Dunning
Levillie Gross
Alberta
Emma Ford
Vernon W. Anderson

Willed to B. Bland
Roger J. Williams
Edward S. Guthrie

~~Mr.~~ Mr. & Mrs. Fred Williams SR

Henry I. Brendt

Don v. Don SR

Richard L. Banks SR

Kathleen S. Guthrie

Leandra A. Guthrie SR

} P.O. 84 Metlakatla

Lindsay Shearer

P.O. Box 305

Metlakatla

Laurence G. Steer, Sr.

P.O. Box 305

Metlakatla

Evelyn Hayward

P.O. Box 593

Metlakatla

~~Paul H. Steer~~

Dorcas Donmire P.O. Box 287, Met.

Fred Williams SR

Patricia A. Tada P.O. Box 803

Metl.

Metlakatla

Carol Daniels

132

cc: Honorable Bill Thomas
State House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 434
Juneau, Alaska 99801

HJR 30 - Please Disapprove the LBC recommendation regarding annexation of territory to the KGB

Peter Caffall-Davis [pcaffalldavis@starband.net]

Sent: Saturday, February 02, 2008 10:21 AM

To: Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux

**Dear Representative LeDoux,
Co-Chair - Community and Regional Affairs Committee**

I urge you to please support HJR 30, send the resolution from committee for a vote, and Disapprove the LBC recommendation regarding the annexation of territory to the Ketchikan Gateway Borough (KGB). Not even one of the parties involved has been in favor of this annexation from the beginning (other than the KGB).

None of the affected parties have had an opportunity to vote in this matter, nor under the Legislative Review Method of annexation will they ever. It is our only hope that you as our other elected representatives take this matter into your hands and call for a vote on our behalf.

Should the legislature fail to act and bring this to a vote, the annexation will automatically become law after 45 days of inaction by the legislature. I believe the 45 days will expire on March 5th. Passage through inaction by the Legislature will result in negative financial impact to several rural Southeast Alaska communities and school districts. For Hyder it will result in the closure of our school.

There are more things wrong with this annexation that can be spell out here but I urge you to please send HJR 30 out of committee for a vote and please support it by voting to Disapprove the LBC recommendation regarding the annexation of territory to the Ketchikan Gateway Borough.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact me.

Thank you,

Peter Caffall-Davis of Hyder

We're all here 'cause we're not all there!

55°54'58.36"N 130° 1'45.27"W

**Paste into Google Earth, turn on Terrain, and tip her back to see the mountains. That's home!
Elevation 6', better than 6' under!**

Support HJR 30

Patricia Shearer [mha_di@aptalaska.net]

Sent: Thursday, January 31, 2008 8:51 AM

To: Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux

January 29, 2008

Honorable Gabrielle LeDoux
State House of Representative
Community and Regional Affairs Committee
State Capitol, Room 412
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Honorable LeDoux,

I respectfully request the Alaska State House Community and Regional Affairs, to support the HJR 30, which has been introduced by Representative Bill Thomas, which opposes the annexation of the Ketchikan Gateway Borough. I am in favor of this bill which will prevent Ketchikan from annexing the unorganized borough. I have concerns regarding the adverse financial impact the annexation will have on the Annette Islands School District and neighboring school districts. Please accept this letter of support opposing the annexation of the Ketchikan Gateway Borough.

Should the annexation go through, this would allow Ketchikan to obtain \$1,200,000.00 windfall in Timber Receipts without providing any additional education services to the 4,500 square miles of land they are seeking to annex. There will be no provision for school funding to Annette Islands School District nor schools on Prince of Wales.

I feel that an independent committee needs to review the perception of conflict of interest that surrounds this case as it concerns the former LBC staff recommendation to the LBC in favor of Ketchikan's annexation application and his recent five year contract and six figure salary as Ketchikan's new city manager.

Thank you for your consideration and effort to support this matter.

Sincerely,

Patricia L. Shearer
P.O. Box 298
Metlakatla, Alaska 99926
907-886-7525

January 30,

2007

Honorable Gabrielle LeDoux, Co-chair
Honorable Anna Fairclough, Co-chair
State House of Representative
Community and Regional Affairs Committee
State Capitol, Room 412
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Honorable LeDoux & Fairclough:

My name is Austin Stevenson I am a resident born in Fairbanks and I am a school teacher in Metlakatla, Alaska. I respectfully and strongly request the support of the Alaska State House members and Regional Affairs committee on **HJR30**, which has been introduced by Representative Bill Thomas opposing the annexation of the Ketchikan Gateway Borough. The Borough's plans are unfair and unethical! Please take the time to read the reasons I have written below.

Number 1: The people living outside the borough do not want to become part of the borough. This can't be overstated. People outside the borough should be able to decide if they want to become part of a huge municipal bureaucracy. They should be able to decide if they want to have another government organization taxing them. The vast majority of residents outside the borough do not! They should also be free to create a borough that will represent themselves if they want to in the future. It is important to note that the MIC, POW, and Wrangle governments officially disapprove of the annexation plan as well.

Number 2: Incorporating forest land into the borough would take money away from towns and local schools. Annette Island, which legally can't be annexed, would lose over 150,000 dollars in school aid. This money would go to the wealthier community of Ketchikan. Annette Island School District is legally forbidden to raise money locally to fill the gap.

Number 3: The increase in borough size would likely introduce restrictions on subsistence activities. The larger boroughs including the cities of Ketchikan, Juneau, and Fairbanks, restrict the opportunities of local residents to engage in subsistence activities. Ketchikan has no right to rob unincorporated towns of their ways of life.

Number 4: There is no benefit to the land or people outside of the borough if it is annexed. When was the last time you heard someone from Hyder or Myers Chuck say "Gee I wish we had a borough to provide some lacking services here" What services could a borough provide to these far flung regions anyway? How often do people from Hyder even visit Ketchikan? Hyder may as well be annexed by Canada. Yet under this plan in a best case scenario the borough would be up to their door step, at worse it would be overseeing a town that the vast majority of people from Ketchikan know nothing about.

Number 5: **The borough's stated reasons for annexation are anemic.** Here they are:

§ To maximize local self government in the region;

Why do we want to maximize government? Are we looking for ways to spend money? Establishing a government outside the local community is contrary to this goal.

§ To promote borough boundaries that better reflect constitutional principles regarding borough government;

We're making our boundaries bigger because the Constitution told us too??!! Why didn't the founders of the state just arbitrarily make Ketchikan a larger borough in 1959? Local population has decreased in the borough over the last two decades. This is not a valid argument.

§ To support orderly growth and development;

Growth of what? Population? Are Revilla and Gravina's land and resources maxed out? This statement seems to imply that Ketchikan needs room to grow. In fact, it seems to imply that the growth is so fast there is a need for it become "orderly".

§ To protect and enhance the Borough's tax base;

Aha! The truth comes out! Ketchikan admits this maneuver is a money making scheme! They will tax the residents and collect federal timber dollars. There is no "protection" just "enhancement" in this scheme--- and its all at the expense of poorer communities!

§ To provide greater local fiscal responsibility.

Doesn't this conflict with the first stated goal?

Number 6: **Ketchikan will only gain only nine permanent residents through this 4,701 square mile annex.** This action seems to be contrary to United States principles that reflect all governments' representation of people and not land. In this annexation scheme, the borough demonstrates that it does not draw its power from people but instead from its boundaries. Though this is not a violation against the state or national constitution it does violate a long held position by many scholars that our government should exist to represent its constituents and not resources.

Number 7: **Anyone who has studied a map of the borough's current size wonders why the borough is as large as it is.** Why does the borough contain large tracts of land that are unoccupied? It seems the borough could stand to lose the entire eastern part of Revilla and the western part of Gravina with almost no loss in population. It does not make logical sense for the borough to expand.

Number 8: **Native claims throughout the region conflict with the borough's plans.** Annette Island has historic claims to Duke Island and is in the process of requesting rights to the property. Other native groups have similar claims elsewhere throughout the proposed area.

Number 9: **The borough's thesis found on their rebuttal document seems to state that the reason for annexation is merely because the constitution allows it to.** This

reasoning is preposterous. The state constitution merely allows for non-incorporated boroughs to become annexed. It doesn't imply that we must incorporate—even if there isn't compelling reasons to. The tone seems to insinuate that we have been violating the constitution by not incorporating the borough into a larger area. The biggest questions for the borough to answer is **Why annex here?** and **Why now?** **What has changed to make annexation prudent?**

As a free minded individuals concerned with fairness and equality, I beseech you both, please oppose the borough's actions on this matter and support **HJR30**

Sincerely;

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Austin Stevenson", is written over a faint, illegible typed name.

Austin Stevenson

Honorable Gabrielle LeDoux, Co-chair
Honorable Anna Fairclough, Co-chair
State House of Representative
Community and Regional Affairs Committee
State Capitol, Room 412
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Honorable LeDoux & Fairclough:

I respectfully request the Alaska State House Community and Regional Affairs support the HJR 30 which has been introduced by Representative Bill Thomas which opposes the annexation of the Ketchikan Gateway Borough. I understand that if this resolution passes the legislature, Ketchikan will be prevented from annexing the unorganized borough in the immediate future. I have crucial concerns regarding the adverse financial impact annexation will have on the Annette, Islands School District in Metlakatla, Craig City Schools, Hydaburg, Southeast Island and Klawock on Prince of Wales, as well as other districts in the region. Please accept this letter in support of opposing the annexation of the Ketchikan Gateway Borough and in support of House Bill HJR 30.

Allowing Ketchikan to obtain \$1,200,000 windfall in Timber Receipts with no obligation to provide any additional educational services to the 4,500 square miles of land they are seeking to annex will cause irreparable harm to school districts on Prince of Wales and Annette Islands.

Prior to allowing this annexation the state legislature needs to appoint an independent committee to review the very real perception that there is a conflict of interest surrounding this case as it concerns a former high ranking LBC staffer who was influential in making staff recommendations to the LBC regarding this current recommendation to the LBC in favor of Ketchikan's annexation application which was in direct opposition to and overturned his 1999 annexation decision, prior to securing a five year contract at a six figure salary with the Ketchikan Gateway Borough as the current Ketchikan city manager.

Thank you for your efforts and support on this matter.

Respectfully, Jody Fisher, Date 2/1/98

I support HJR 30, which is against the
annexation of Ketchikan. I asked for the
support from Alaska State House Community and
Regional affairs committee support of HJR 30.

Respectfully:
Steve Mariniz
2/1/08

Honorable Gabrielle Le Doue, Co-Chair
Honorable Ann Fairclough, Co-Chair
State House of Representative
Community and Regional Affairs Committee
State Capitol, Room 412
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Honorable Le Doue & Fairclough

I support of Alaska State House and
Community and Regional Affairs Committee
support of HJR 30.

Thank you for your efforts and support on
this matter.

Respectfully,
Florence Kennell Jr., February 1, 2008

Feb. 1, 2008

To Whom it May Concern -

We stand totally against the Annexation of Annette Island School District. We stand in support of House Bill HJR 30. Please act in our behalf.

Respectfully,

Kathleen S. Guthrie

~ Eleanor A. Oltman Sr.

P.O. Box 84

Wetlakalla, AK 99926

(907) 886-7174

Feb 1, 2008

Feb. 1, 2008

Hon. Gabrielle LeDoux, Co-Chair

State House of Rep.

Comm. & Regional Affairs Comm.

State Capitol, Room 412

Jameau, NK 99501

Dear Hon. LeDoux,

I am soliciting your support
of HJR 30. I oppose the annexation
by the Ketchikan Gateway Borough.

Thank you for your attention to this
matter.

Yours Truly,
C. Paul Bryant

I support the HSR-30 which was
introduced by Representative Bill Thomas

John M. Fawcett

I support of Alaska State House
on support of HJR 30

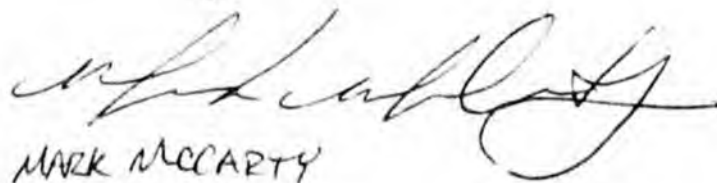
Richard G. O'Connell Sr

DEAR HONORABLE LeDoux & Fairclough,

I may not be a native of METLAKATLA but my wife is and so are my 4 children. I have had the issue brought to my attention about the ANNEXATION of KETCHIKAN. I strongly oppose of this ANNEX in that it would serve no positive benefit to METLAKATLA AND VARIOUS COMMUNITIES as well. The only REAL BENEFACTOR to the whole ANNEX is KETCHIKAN. Also the individuals that would REALLY SUFFER FROM this ANNEX would be the children of METLAKATLA AND the VARIOUS COMMUNITIES AND their schools.

THEREFORE, I, MARK EDWARD McCarty, oppose the House Bill HJR 30. THANK-YOU FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION AND SUPPORT ON this MATTER.

Respectfully yours,


MARK MCCARTY

01 FEB 2008

2-1-2008

Dear Honorable LeDoux & Fairclough:

I respectfully request the support of the Alaska State House Community & Regional Affairs Committee Support of HR 30, which has been introduced by Representative Bill Thomas opposing the annexation by Ketchikan Gateway Borough - AK.

Thank you for your support

Tola Russell

2-1-08

Dear Honorable Le Doux + Fairclough:

I respectfully request the Support of the Alaska State House Community and Regional Affairs comm.tee Support of HJR 30.

I have concerns regarding the adverse financial impact this annexation would have on the Annette Island School District in Metlakatla, Alaska.

Opposing Please accept this letter in Support of Annexation by the Ketchikan Gateway Borough and in Support of House Bill HJR 30.

Thank you for your Support in this most serious matter

Respectfully,
Richard J. Astum, Tribal Council
P.O. Box 68
Metlakatla, AK 99926

I think the annexation would be extremely unfair for the smaller communities. To many reasons to list,

thanks,
Chester. Cash 2-1-08

Honorable LeDoux & Fairclough
I strongly support Bill HUR30
sponsored by our Rep. Bill Thomas

Carole M. ...
P.O. Box 173
Uttarakala AK 99926

Honorable Isabelle Le Doue, Co Chair
Honorable Anna Fairclough, Co Chair
State House of Representatives
Community & Regional Affairs Committee
State Capitol, Room 412
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Honorable Le Doue & Fairclough
I respectfully request the support
of the Alaska State House Community
and Regional Affairs Committee
support of HJR 30 which has been
introduced by Rep. Bill Thomas
Opposing the Annexation by the
Ketchikan Gateway Borough - RGR

Sincerely
Bernice Drenth
Feb 1 88

Honorable Gabrielle LeDoux, Co-Chair
Honorable Anna Fairclough, Co-Chair
State House of Representative
Community and Regional Affairs Committee
State Capitol, Room 412
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Honorable LeDoux + Fairclough:

I respectfully request the support of the Alaska State House Community and Regional Affairs Committee support of HJR 30, which has been introduced by Representative Bill Thomas opposing the annexation by Ketchikan Gateway Borough, - KGB.

Please accept this letter in support of opposing the annexation and in support of House Bill HJR 30.

Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

2-1-08

Vivian Johnston

P.O. Box 185
Mettakatta, AK 99926
Feb 2, 2008

Honorable Gabrielle LeDoux, Co-Chair
Honorable Anna Fairclough, Co-Chair
State House Of Representatives
Community & Regional Affairs Committee
State Capital, Room 412
Juneau, AK 99501

Dear Co-Chairs LeDoux & Fairclough:

Rep. Bill Thomas introduced HJR 30,
opposing the annexation by the Ketchikan
Gateway Borough - KGB.

Being that I live in Mettakatta, I am
extremely concerned about the adverse financial
this annexation would have on the schools in Mettakatta,
Craig, Hyakburg, Klanaok as well as other
regional communities.

Please accept this letter in support of House
Bill HJR 30.

Thank you - I'd like to hear from you.

Sincerely

Deborah J. Suther
BORN & RAISED IN SE Alaska

Honorable Gabrielle LeDoux, Co-chair
Honorable Anna Fairclough, Co-chair
State House of Representatives
Community and Regional Affairs Committee
State Capitol, Room 412
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Honorable LeDoux & Fairclough:

I respectfully request the support
of the Alaska State House
Community and Regional Affairs
Committee support of HJR 30.

I have crucial concerns regarding
the adverse financial impact this
annexation would have.

Please accept this letter in support
of opposing the annexation by
Ketchikan Gateway Borough and in
support of House Bill HJR 30.

Respectfully,

Walter McMillan

2-1-08

Honorable Gabrielle LeDoux, Co Chair
" Ann- ~~Fairclough~~ " "
Fairclough

State House of Representative
Comm. of Regional Affairs Comm
State Capitol, Room 412
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Hon La Poix & Fairclough

~~I respectfully~~

I respectfully support HJR 30.
The annexation gives too much land
to a already large borough and
the little communities lose. This
is a big child picking on a small
kid. So me that is a bully tactics
and its time our little School
Districts are heard.

Please do not pass the annexation
by the Ketchikan Gateway Borough.

Thank you for your efforts and
support on this matter.

Sincerely Bruce Gulkin Sr.
February 2, 2008

I support of ^{the} Alaska State
House Community & Reg. Affairs
Comm. support of HJR 30
introduced by Rep. Bill Thomas
opposing the annexation by
The KTM. Gateway Borough

Arlene Whelton
Box 104
Mt. Ak. 99926

2/1/2008

Honorable Gabrielle Redox, CoChair
Honorable Anna Fairweather, CoChair
State House of Rep.
Comm. & Regional Affairs Comm.
State CAP., Room 412
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Honorable Redox & Fairweather:

I respectfully request the support of the Alaska State House Comm. & Regional Affairs Committee Support of HJR 30, which is opposing the Annexation by the Ketchikan Gateway Borough - KGB.

Please accept this letter in support of opposing the Annexation by KGB

Thank you for your efforts & support on this matter.

Respectfully, Maria Ferguson
2/1/2008

To whom it may concern:

I believe the Metlakatta Highschool already suffers economically, if this annexation goes through our children will suffer just because somebody wants a simple piece of land, why should our youth be put through unnecessary neglect, please take it into consideration the future, who is these children, with support of HJR 30, we already suffer enough in our community, don't take it out on our kids because of land,

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Don Edenshaw

Feb 01 08

To: Honorable LeDoux & Fairclough

I am in support of HJR 30, which was introduced by Representative Bill Thomas opposing the annexation by Ketchikan Gateway Borough, to OT from Annexing 4701 miles of Borough in South East Alaska. My main concern and everyone else's concerns should be held towards the numerous native schools that the borough would be depleting funds from; (e. Metlakatla, Klwack, Craig, Kasah's other prince of Wales island schools) etc in Metlakatla take education schools and funding just our schools is a serious issue. So as a member of Metlakatla Island Community & a resident of Ketchikan Island support Bill Thomas and HJR 30.

Sincerely,
Christina Brundage
Feb 01. 08

I DO NOT SUPPORT THE KETCHIKAN
ANNEXATION. THIS WILL TAKE MONEY
FROM ALL THE REGIONAL COMMUNITIES
AND PROFIT THE KGB. WE NOT
ONLY WILL LOSE MONEY FOR
EDUCATION, BUT ALSO FOR EACH
COMMUNITY AND ITS REVENUES.
We do not need our Native Land taken from us
AGAIN, THE ~~AK~~ KETCHIKAN
ANNEXATION IS NOT A GOOD
IDEA. ITS NOT SMART.

PLEASE DO NOT SUPPORT AND
PASS THE ~~AK~~ ANNEXATION.

Respectfully,

Ashley: Marty Martinez
Metlakatla, AK

Dear Honorable Gabrielle LeDoux and
Anna Fairclough and Honorable LeDoux &
Fairclough I respectfully support the
annexation of support of HJR 30 and
opposing the annexations in support of House
Bill HJR 30

Trennis J. Hayward

Honorable Gabrielle Le Doux, Co-Chair
Honorable Ann Fairclough, Co-Chair
State House of Representative
Community and Regional Affairs Committee
State Capitol, Rm 412
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Honorable Le Doux & Fairclough:

Please accept this letter in SUPPORT of opposing the
annexation by the Ketchikan Gateway Borough and
IN SUPPORT of House Bill HJR 30.

I have crucial concerns regarding the adverse
financial impact this annexation would have on
the Annette Islands Special District in Metlakatla,
as well as other regional communities.

Thank you for your efforts, support and
concern for ALL ALASKA.

Respectfully,
Pamela D. McGilton 2/11/08
PAMELA D MCGILTON
PO Box 398
METLAKATLA, ALASKA 99926

Honorable Gabrielle LeDoux, Co-Chair
Honorable Anna Fairclough, Co-Chair
State House of Representative
Community and Regional Affairs Committee
State Capitol, Room 412
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear,

Honorable LeDoux & Fairclough:
Please accept this letter in support of opposing
the annexation by the Ketchikan Gateway
Borough & in support of House Bill HJR 30.

I have crucial concern regarding the
financial impact this annexation would have on
the Annette Island School District in Metlakatla,
as well as other regional communities.

Thank you for your time & efforts, especially
your concerns for all of Alaska.

Respectfully,
Latanya A. Galle 2/11/08

Latanya A. Galle
P.O. Box 267
Metlakatla, AK 99926

HON. EMBILILLA LE DOUX, CO-CHAIR
HON. ANNA FAIRCLOUGH, CO-CHAIR
State House of Rep.
Community & Regional Affairs Committee
State Capitol, Rm 412
Juneau, Ak 99801

Hon. Le Doux & Fairclough,
Please accept this letter in SUPPORT of OPPOSING
the annexation by the Ketchikan Gateway
Borough in IN SUPPORT of House Bill HJR 30
introduced by Bill Thomas, Rep.

I have crucial concern for the adverse
financial impact this annexation would
have on The Anchette Islands School District
in Metlakatla, as well as other regional
communities.

Thank you for your efforts, support
and concern for ALL ALASKA!
Respectfully,

Joni R Faulkner
Box 783
Metlakatla, Alaska

I am for Bill and support HJR 30. I am totally
against the Annexation. This would take
away from our children.

Sincerely
Fred M Blandou

2/1/08

Dear Rep Thomas

I am in support of House Bill HJR 30. Thank you
for your help.

Michael J Blandov
Michael J Blandov

Honorable Gabrielle Le Doux Co-Chair
Honorable Anna Fairclough, Co-Chair
State House of Representative
Community and Regional Affairs, Terminal
State Capitol, Room 412
Fairbanks, Alaska 99801

I Cindy L. Williams support
House Bill HJR 30.

Thank you for your time

Respectfully Cindy L. Williams
2-1-08

Cindy L. Williams
P.O. Box 473
Netsilik, Alaska 99726

Dear Honorable Le Doux & Fairclough:

McBourne & Ruth Booth are in support of
House Bill HJR 30.

Thank You,

McBourne & Ruth Booth 2-1-08
PO Box 301

Millkatta AK 99926
PH # 907-886-6352

Honorable Gabrielle LeDoux, Co-Chair
STATE HOUSE of Representatives
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Honorable LeDoux & Fairclough:

I am in favor of and support HTR30

This is a series of several SE
Communities, so please accept my
letter in support of opposing the annexation
by the Ketchikan Gateway Borough


Al J. Fairclough
2/2/08

Feb, 1, 2008

Dear Honorable LeDoux & Faircloth:

I am writing to support HJR30 and to oppose the annexation by the Ketchikan Gateway Borough. I have serious concerns about the adverse financial impact the annexation would have on the Annette Island School District.

Thank you for the efforts and support on this matter.


Nate Benton
P.O. Box 108
Medford, AK 99526

Dear Honorable LeDoux & Fairclough
I respectfully request the support
of Alaska State House Community
& Regional Affairs Committee support
of HJR 30 which has been introduced
by Rep Bill Thomas opposing the
annexation by the Kachikuan
Gateway Borough & AB.
Please circulate this letter in support
of House Bill HJR 30.
Thanking

Thank you for your support
on this matter

Josephine H. L. W.
P.O. Box 116
Metchosin, AK
99756

Dear Honorable LeDoux & Fairclough,

I respectfully request the support of the Alaska State House Community and Regional Affairs committee support of HJR 30, which has been introduced by Rep Bill Thomas opposing the annexation by the Ketchikan Gateway Borough - KGB.

I have crucial concerns regarding the adverse financial impact this annexation would have on our community children, as well as other regional communities.

Please Please accept this letter in support of opposing the annexation by ~~the~~ Ketchikan Gateway Borough and in support of House Bill HJR 30.

Thank you for your support and effort on this matter.

Respectfully,
Darryl Broth

2-1-08

Thank you
Brian Foley
Miltonst Metlakatla, AK 99226

House Bill HJR30.

I respectfully request your support of HJR30 which was introduced by Representative Bill Thomas. This resolution opposes the annexation by the Ketchikan Gateway Borough-KGB. I understand it this resolution passes, it will prevent Ketchikan from annexing ~400 miles of the unorganized Borough in Southeast Alaska. This would pose a severe negative financial impact on the Annette Island School District as well as other school districts in the area. I am firmly opposed to the annexation and I support

Dear Honorable LeDoux + Fairclough

Honorable Gabrielle LeDoux, Co-chair
Honorable Anna Fairclough, Co-chair
State House of Representatives
Community and Regional Affairs Committee
State Capitol, room 412
Seward Juneau, AK 99801

NOV 1st 2004

Dear Rep. Bill Thomas,

I am writing this in support
of House Bill HJR 30.
Thank you for your support

Yvonne G. Blumberg

2/1/08

To: Honorable Gabrielle LeDoux Co Chair
Honorable Anna Faceclough Co Chair
State House of Representatives
Community and Regional Affairs Committee
State Capitol, Rm. 412
Juneau Ak 99801

Dear Honorable LeDoux & Faceclough:

I respectfully request the support of the Alaska State House Community & Regional Affairs committee SUPPORT OF HJR 30, which has been introduced by Representative Bill Thomas ^{OPPOSING} ~~OPPOSING~~ ^{the} annexation by the Ketchikan Gateway Borough (KGB). I understand that if this resolution passes the Alaska state legislature, Ketchikan will be prevented from annexing approximately 4700 miles of the unorganized borough in SE Alaska in the immediate future. I have crucial concerns regarding the adverse financial impact this annexation would have on the Arrville Islands School District in Mulwatta, the Cran City Schools, Hyدابurg School District, SE Island and Hoonah School Districts on Prince of Wales Island, as well as other regional communities. Please accept this letter in support of opposing the annexation by the Ketchikan Gateway Borough (KGB) and in support of HB HJR 30.

Honorable Le

I respectfully request the support of the Alaska State House Community & Regional Affairs Committee support of HJR 30 that has been introduced by Representative Bill Thomas opposing the annexation by Ketchikan Gateway Borough. I have concerns regarding the financial impact this annexation would have on Annette Island School District in Metlakatla and the Craig City Schools as well as other regional communities.

Please accept this letter in support of opposing the annexation by the Ketchikan Gateway Borough and in support of House Bill HJR 30.

Thank you for your efforts & support on this support.

Adelme J. McQuinn

2-1-08

2/1/08

Dear Honorable LeDoux + Fairclough

I am in support of
House Bill HJR 30.

Respectfully,

Kerstin M. Brundage
Dorothy M. Brundage
Methaketa Resident

P.O. Box 251
Methaketa, AK 99922