

September 21, 2007

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Alaska Local Boundary Commission
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Subject: Comment on DCCED Preliminary Report on Wrangell Borough Formation

Dear Commission Members:

I am a home owner and resident of the community of Petersburg, and I also own recreational property on Farm Island on the Stikine River delta, which is within the proposed Wrangell Borough. Concerning the petition for borough formation for the community of Wrangell, and the planned petition for the same for Petersburg, I wish to join the many community members of both Wrangell and Petersburg who feel a single borough for both Wrangell and Petersburg would be in the best interests of us local residents and the State of Alaska. This would be the model borough as originally suggested by the Boundary Commission.

The reasons put forth by current Wrangell and Petersburg City government officials for independent borough formations amount to philosophical differences due to "sibling rivalry" that goes back many generations. It's time that is set aside for the many economic, political and common sense advantages of a single borough. Our community islands are only 11 miles apart; our two communities are similar size, have similar economies, and have good transportation infrastructure between the two towns. The advantages of a single borough for our two school systems alone would justify a single Wrangell/Petersburg borough.

I have been appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture to represent both Petersburg and Wrangell for Dispersed Recreation Interests on the Wrangell/Petersburg Resource Advisory Committee, as chartered by H. R. 2389-2 "Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000". Speaking for myself and not as a representative of the committee, our committee, made up of 15 members from both communities, has administered approximately \$2 million in community projects for Wrangell and Petersburg and well demonstrates the many advantages of our two communities collaborating as a single entity.

Our two communities can accomplish more together than independently. I recommend the Boundary Commission firmly push Wrangell and Petersburg to jointly form a single borough.

Sincerely,



John Murgas

