

## **Notice of Proposed Amendment to Wrangell Borough Incorporation Petition**

Voters in the greater Wrangell area have petitioned the Alaska Local Boundary Commission (LBC) for incorporation of a borough encompassing 3,465 square miles. In addition, the Ketchikan Gateway Borough has petitioned the LBC for annexation of 4,701 square miles. Both petitions seek to include a 191-square-mile area encompassing Meyers Chuck and Union Bay; however, no portion of that overlapping area may be included in more than one borough.

The Alaska Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development ("DCCED") serves as staff for the LBC. DCCED is required to "investigate" borough incorporation and borough annexation proposals filed with the LBC. Further, DCCED must prepare a preliminary report with "findings and recommendations" regarding each incorporation and annexation proposal. Following an opportunity for public comment on a preliminary report, DCCED must issue a final report with findings and recommendations.

The LBC, which is independent of DCCED, must hold at least one public hearing on each proposal. Following the hearings, the LBC will apply formal standards established in law to act on the petitions.

Based on its preliminary investigation, analyses, and findings, DCCED concluded that the applicable legal standards favor inclusion of the 191-square-mile area in the Ketchikan Gateway Borough rather than the proposed Wrangell borough. Accordingly, DCCED has proposed in its Wrangell *Preliminary Report* that the LBC amend the Wrangell petition to exclude the 191-square-mile area. In a separate report regarding the Ketchikan petition, DCCED recommends inclusion of that area within the Ketchikan Gateway Borough.

In accordance with AS 29.05.100(a) and 3 AAC 110.530(e), DCCED provides this public notice of its recommendation to amend the Wrangell petition to exclude the 191-square mile area noted above. Written comments on the proposed amendment and other elements of the Wrangell *Preliminary Report* are invited. To be considered, written comments must be received in the office noted below by 4:30 p.m., September 24, 2007:

LBC Staff  
Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development  
550 West Seventh Avenue, Suite 1770  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-3510

Fax: (907) 269-4539  
E-mail: [LBC@alaska.gov](mailto:LBC@alaska.gov)

Written public comments received in response to this notice will be included in DCCED's *Final Report* on the Wrangell proposal.

Oral comments regarding the proposed amendment will be solicited at the LBC public hearing to be held under 3 AAC 110.560. Extensive notice of that hearing will be given once the hearing has been scheduled.