



**Commission, Boundary (CED sponsored)**

**From:** Dana [rdthynes@gci.net]  
**To:** Commission, Boundary (CED sponsored)  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Public Comment on the Petersburg Borough Petition referencing 3 AAC 110.045. Relationship of interests  
**Attachments:**

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

**From:** [Dana](#)  
**To:** [brent.williams@alaska.gov](mailto:brent.williams@alaska.gov)  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 23, 2011 11:34 PM  
**Subject:** Public Comment on the Petersburg Borough Petition referencing 3 AAC 110.045. Relationship of interests

Brent Williams  
Division of Community & Regional Affairs  
Department of Community, Commerce, and Economic Development  
550 West 7th Avenue  
Suite 1770  
Anchorage, AK 99501-3510

Dear Mr. Williams and staff members of the Local Boundary Commission,

In this comment, I would like to focus on 3 AAC 110.045 (c)(3) and (c)(4), , and (d)(1) and (2):

3 AAC 110.045. Relationship of interests

(c) The communications media and the land, water, and air transportation facilities throughout the proposed borough must allow for the level of communications and exchange necessary to develop an integrated borough government in accordance with AS 29.05.031 (a)(4) and art. X, sec. 3, Constitution of the State of Alaska. In this regard, the commission may consider relevant factors, including

(3) telephonic and teleconferencing facilities; and

(4) electronic media for use by the public.

(d) In determining whether communications and exchange patterns are sufficient, the commission may consider whether

(1) all communities within a proposed borough are connected to the proposed borough seat by a public roadway, regular scheduled airline flights on at least a weekly basis, regular ferry service on at least a weekly basis, a charter flight service based in the proposed borough, other customary means of travel including boats and snow machines, or sufficient electronic media communications; and

(2) communications and exchange patterns will adequately facilitate interrelationships and integration of the people in the proposed borough.

MY COMMENT:

Electronic communication is extremely unreliable outside of the town of Petersburg. There is no integrated system that the public can make use of; instead, individual households, as they are able to afford equipment and as they find it to be a priority in their lives, have acquired internet access through satellite or radio communication. This can be very expensive, and the reception is frequently spotty and unreliable. We do have "dead zones" where no communication is possible.

What this means for local government is that public messages, communications, news, and notices are apt to

be missed. The local radio stations (FM and AM) have a good history, but even they are not 100% in all areas. Where they do tend to be reliable, it still constitutes one-way communication.

Recently a resident from Keene Channel travelled in his skiff all the way to Papke's Landing, and then in his truck to Petersburg (a trip over open water for the most part, and then 11 miles in his vehicle) in order to take part in a teleconference. He made the long trip because his cell phone is very unreliable, and he wanted to be "in town" where cell coverage was best. Unfortunately, he was denied participation in the call because they could not charge his "land line!" Of course, he has no land line.

The hosts of the teleconference were merely obeying the statute or code which enforces the law. But what this tells me is that we have laws that have not anticipated all the conditions in which Alaska's residents live. There are some laws that are not serving us well.

Communication on the outlying areas of the proposed Petersburg borough is not adequate or sufficient for government of these areas by what would essentially be an outside interest -- Petersburg.

Thank you,

Dana Thynes  
City of Kupreanof  
Kupreanof Island