**From:** [Thomas McLaughlin](mailto:thomasmclaughlin49@gmail.com)

**To:** [rep.andi.story@akleg.gov](mailto:rep.andi.story@akleg.gov); [Jesse Kiehl](mailto:Sen.Jesse.Kiehl@akleg.gov); [Liesl Barker](mailto:liesl.barker@gustavus-ak.gov)

**Subject:** Gustavus Issues

**Date:** Saturday, January 20, 2024 08:43:53

Hi Jesse and Andi,

I hope you are both having a Happy New Year. Two things that are on my mind right now are The Nature Conservancy lands in Gustavus and the proposed Xunaa Borough by the City of Hoonah.

As you may know the Hoonah Indian Association applied to TNC two years ago, in secret, to take over ownership of TNC land in Gustavus. This is land that the citizens of Gustavus and other donors paid $340,000,000 for twenty some years ago. TNC did not bother to tell the City of Gustavus for two years either. Many letters were written to TNC objecting to this hostile takeover. As far as I know all the citizens in Gustavus are united in opposing this takeover of our land.

The City of Hoonah has proposed to the Local Boundary Commission to form a new Xunaa Borough. This Borough which includes Glacier Bay National Park would totally surround Gustavus, Tenakee, and Pelican and would gobble up Elfin Cove. I object to this takeover of land and I think most people in Gustavus are opposed to it. Right now the Park Service owns the land surrounding Gustavus and Glacier Bay almost all the way up to Yakatat. At the present time this land belongs to all of us and is accessible to all of us. There is no development on this land now and never will be if the Park Service and Forest Service retain ownership. I believe that most people in Gustavus want this to remain pristine wilderness for all of us to enjoy. It would be very disturbing to say the least to be surrounded by a single borough who I think could do whatever development they wanted with this land.

I could go on but I will stop here because you may already be aware of all this. Thank you,

Thomas McLaughlin, PE

Sent from my iPhone