

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD

## Verbal Testimony Summaries

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# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

**Kenai-Soldotna 10/14/21 Verbal Testimony**

Summary Date: November 2, 2021

Name: **Joan Corr**

Email or Phone Contact: [corrjoan@hotmail.com](mailto:corrjoan@hotmail.com)

Joan Corr noted that Nikiski and Anchorage are not contiguous or contiguous and there are no socio-economic similarities. Joan would like the Kenai Peninsula Borough to be kept intact and agreed with Mary Jackson's testimony regarding service areas.

Joan spoke in favor of Board Maps v.3 and v.4 where the borough is kept intact. Joan spoke in opposition of the AFFER map that splits up the borough.

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

**Kenai-Soldotna 10/14/21 Verbal Testimony**

Summary Date: November 2, 2021

Name: **Milan Galey**

Email or Phone Contact: [mdg07177@hotmail.com](mailto:mdg07177@hotmail.com)

**Milan Galey lives in the Salamanoff-Nikiski area. Some of the proposals look like this area should be included with South Anchorage, but there is nothing in common with both communities.**

# **ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY**

**Kenai-Soldotna 10/14/21 Verbal Testimony**

Summary Date: November 2, 2021

Name: **Christine Hutchison**

Email or Phone Contact: [designone@gci.net](mailto:designone@gci.net)

**Christina agreed with Mary Jackson's testimony and spoke in favor of Board Map v.3 and v.4, but prefers the v.3 layout.**

**Christina does not see how Nikiski and South Anchorage are socio-economically integrated. The communities are very different. The comparison of home values is also significantly different.**

**The AFFER map is also not compact. Maybe the community would like the divergent and doesn't mind being overpopulated with few representatives but would like the borough to stay intact.**

**Do not push Fritz Creek and Fox River into the ocean.**

# **ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY**

**Kenai-Soldotna 10/14/21 Verbal Testimony**

Summary Date: November 2, 2021

First Name: **Mary Jackson**

Email or Phone Contact: **907-398-0710**

**Mary Jackson stated that she would like to see the board move forward with keeping the Kenai Peninsula Borough intact and divided in 3 to result in 3 representatives. Her reasoning for this is that when the borough's population is divided by 18,335, this equals 3.2. She would not like to see the .2 go anywhere else. Kenai has been a borough for almost 60 years, predicated around the constitution with a driver that the borough is already a socio-economic entity.**

**Mary encouraged the board to look at the Kenai Peninsula's service areas and how they work in the borough, how there's an interplay and interdependence within the borough. This shows how intact the borough is and how intact it should be kept.**

**If the board can divide the borough by 3, then Mary would be in favor of Board Map v.3 or v.4 because of the way they the top goes across from north to east, keeps Kenai-Soldotna together, and has urban areas (no urban areas with rural areas, doesn't make sense).**

**One consideration that the board has discussed is whether they should adhere to borough boundaries or the ANCSA boundary; the borough boundaries should be adhered to as it is in the constitution. It is not right for the Kenai Peninsula Borough to have maps that "bite from the borough from all sides" because the borough is not "low hanging fruit".**

# **ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY**

**Kenai-Soldotna 10/14/21 Verbal Testimony**

Summary Date: November 2, 2021

Name: **Kathy Medcoff**

**Kathy agreed with Mary Jackson's testimony and spoke in favor of Board Maps v.3 and v.4.**

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**Kenai-Soldotna 10/14/21 Verbal Testimony**

Summary Date: November 2, 2021

Name: **Grace Merkes**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **Sterling Community Center**

Email or Phone Contact: **907-398-9811**

Public Comment: **Grace noted that the more the Kenai Peninsula Borough can be kept together, the better it will be for the state and residents.**

**Regarding Sterling, it is a large community that is very spread out and is rural. Currently, Sterling is combined with Nikiski; this is a good thing as they have similar backgrounds and support each other's regulations and rules. Including Seward is a different story as they are more of a coastal community, such as Homer.**

**In reviewing the maps, Grace supports the Board Maps v.3 and v.4 and asked the board not to split Sterling up in the**

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

**Kenai-Soldotna 10/14/21 Verbal Testimony**

Summary Date: November 2, 2021

Name: **Bob Molloy**      Group Affiliation, if applicable: **Kenai City Council , but speaking on behalf of self**

Email or Phone Contact: [bob@molloysschmidt.com](mailto:bob@molloysschmidt.com)

Public Comment: **Bob Molloy asked for the City of Kenai to be kept intact and spoke against the Doyon Coalition proposal which carves out a small part of the city and puts it in District 8-D. Dividing the community would have negative impacts.**

**Board Map v.3 and v.4 are more preferable maps. Bob encouraged the board to keep the Kenai Peninsula together as much as possible.**



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**Kenai-Soldotna 10/14/21 Verbal Testimony**

Summary Date: November 2, 2021

Name: **Wayne Ogle**

Email or Phone Contact: [wayne.ogle@yahoo.com](mailto:wayne.ogle@yahoo.com) or 907-690-1308

**Wayne Ogle, Nikiski resident, noted that when he first saw the maps that were released, he was somewhat gratified to see Board Maps v.3 and v.4 that both keep the Kenai Peninsula into a socio-economic grouping that makes sense. Mary Jackson's analysis of the service areas is often forgotten, and Nikiski has 3 service areas. Wayne encouraged the board to consider Mary Jackson's analysis.**

**Overall, Wayne is in favor of Board Maps v.3 and v.4.**

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Summary Date: November 2, 2021

Name: **Queen Parker**

**Queen Parker agrees with Mary Jackson's proposed map as described in her testimony because the service areas should stay together.**

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**Kenai-Soldotna 10/14/21 Verbal Testimony**

Summary Date: November 2, 2021

Name: **Dave Peck**

Email or Phone Contact: [dlp195@gmail.com](mailto:dlp195@gmail.com)

**Dave, Kenai resident, spoke in favor of Board Maps v.3 and v.4 as keeping the communities intact is preferable.**

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

**Kenai-Soldotna 10/14/21 Verbal Testimony**

Summary Date: November 2, 2021

Name: **Crystal Schoenrock**

Email or Phone Contact: [friskey4@acsalaska.com](mailto:friskey4@acsalaska.com) or 907-776-4097

**Crystal Schoenrock, Nikiski business owner, moved to Nikiski and if she wanted to live in Anchorage, she would have moved there. Crystal agrees with Mary Jackson's testimony and does not want to see Nikiski being separated as the community is almost like a family. There are many people who move out of Anchorage as they are tired of Anchorage, but this shouldn't result in Nikiski stepping in to help them out. Also, no bridge is needed. Crystal likes having one way in and out.**

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

**Kenai-Soldotna 10/14/21 Verbal Testimony**

Summary Date: November 2, 2021

Name: **Kathryn Thomas**

Email or Phone Contact: [arctech@alaska.net](mailto:arctech@alaska.net) or 907-394-1663

**Kathryn Thomas, South Soldotna resident, is a business owner who has served on local and state boards. Kathryn looks at Alaska and the Kenai Peninsula's economic issues. She believes the access to elected representatives is important to inform and educate representatives on key issues impacting residents' lives and businesses. She would like to see the Kenai Peninsula intact or, at a minimum, any portion separated in the redistricting plan should have common economic ground to provide good representation.**

**Kathryn spoke in favor of the AFFER map in terms of the Kenai Peninsula. She is not 100% happy with the map, but prefers it over the others and it provides the opportunity for each district to provide its own voice of representation. The plan provides for good commonality in each proposed district.**

**The largest controversy is District 32-P in the Nikiski area; this is not ideal, but the area is economically driven by oil and gas and this area being included with the small district in Anchorage should be beneficial.**

**Kathryn mentioned that her business customers are mostly from Nikiski, but her vote was with Homer and this is a large difference.**