

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD

## Verbal Testimony Summaries

### Kotzebue Public Hearing 10/5/2021

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# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

**Kotzebue 10/5/2021 Verbal Testimony**

Transcription date: October 15, 2021

First Name: **Anthony** Last Name: **Crvalho**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **Maniilaq Association**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]


**Mr. Crvalho spoke in favor of keeping Buckland and Deering in District 40. It is important to keep these villages together in the borough to maintain representation in the state. At Maniilaq, there are 20 different state grants from various departments that are designed to serve the all the villages in the region in various ways. Keeping these villages in District 40 allows Maniilaq to contact one person when advocacy needs to be done. With limited resources as a nonprofit organization, this is important.**

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Transcription date: October 15, 2021

First Name: **Reid** Last Name: **Maydanz**

Email or Phone Contact: 

**Mr. Maydanz expressed of the maps that keep the NANA Region and Northwest Arctic Borough together.**



# Northwest Arctic Borough

163 Lagoon Street  
P.O. Box 1110 Kotzebue, Alaska 99752  
(907) 442-2500 Fax (907) 442-2930  
www.nwabor.org

## ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT NATHAN HADLEY, JR.

### Maintaining the Strength and Unity of the Northwest Arctic Borough – October 5, 2021

My name is Nathan Hadley, Jr., and I am speaking as the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly President, a Buckland City Council member, and a lifelong resident of Buckland. The Northwest Arctic Borough's 11 communities (Ambler, Buckland, Deering, Kiana, Kivalina, Kobuk, Kotzebue, Noatak, Noorvik, Selawik, and Shungnak) have been part of Senate District T and House District 40 since the Borough's formation in 1986.

This 11-village regional organization has long been tied through family, community, our local and regional economies, and a rich social fabric spanning generations. The Northwest Arctic Borough has a longstanding dedication to working with its regional partners - NANA Regional Corporation, Maniilaq, and the Northwest Arctic Borough School District through the Northwest Arctic Leadership Team (NWALT). Through NWALT, the Borough has worked together to serve the people of the region by maximizing resources and minimizing duplication, promoting strategies through grassroots involvement, serving as a steering committee to examine region-wide issues, and coordinating to find solutions and recommend policy and resource allocation.

The Borough also has a longstanding partnership with its sister Borough, the North Slope Borough. The Borough has been able to work hand-in-hand with the North Slope to work with its state legislators to address region-wide issues like resource development, subsistence protection, offshore activities, and other common matters.

If the Alaska Redistricting Board moves to split the Northwest Arctic Borough villages, it will have significant detrimental effects on our region's strength and unity. This will be particularly so for the communities of Buckland and Deering, which are essential villages in our region without direct ties to the communities and region to the south.

- Kotzebue, not Nome, is the region's hub. Buckland and Deering residents route through Kotzebue to travel to and from home.
- They rely on Maniilaq in Kotzebue for healthcare and social services.
- Their students are part of the Northwest Arctic Borough School District in Kotzebue.
- Buckland and Deering are merged villages in NANA Regional Corporation, without individual village corporations.

Ambler Ivisaappaat, Buckland Nunatchiaq, Deering Ipnatchiaq, Kiana Katyaak, Kivalina Kivalieiq, Kobuk Laugviik, Kotzebue Qikiqtaaruk, Noatak Nautaaq, Noorvik Nuurvik, Selawik Akulibaq, Shungnak Isiɛnaq



# Northwest Arctic Borough

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- In short, the ties that link Buckland and Deering to the Northwest Arctic Borough and Kotzebue cover every aspect of daily life. And removing Buckland and Deering from our legislative districts will have lasting, damaging consequences.

The Alaska Constitution explicitly contemplates consideration of socioeconomic factor and local government boundaries, and failing to recognize the importance of maintaining continuity between state and borough boundaries here will prove to be a significant and lasting disservice to our region and residents.

In particular, Deering and Buckland are essential pieces of the Northwest Arctic Borough. The Borough and NWALT actively advocate for both villages within the strength and framework of our legislative and policy support on issues like economic development, village infrastructure, water and sewer improvements, heavy equipment procurement, and educational advocacy.

In sum, it's hard to understate the harm created by fracturing the Borough's villages between state legislative districts. Our region is faced with many economic, logistical, and socioeconomic challenges; we do not need an additional barrier to effective advocacy and unity for our people and our region. I support the Board's plan as it keeps the NANA region and villages together in one district. The Northwest Arctic Borough and North Slope Borough are heavily intertwined and very different than the Bering Straits region. Our two boroughs work together as one unified unit on many issues and are formalized boroughs which should not be separated or broken up by reapportionment.

Sincerely,

Nathan Hadley, Jr.  
Assembly President  
Northwest Arctic Borough



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## FROM THE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR LUCY S. NELSON

Maintaining the Strength and Unity of  
the Northwest Arctic Borough – September 30, 2021

*By Bethany March Nicole Borrowed*

First I want to thank you ~~Melanie Bankie~~ and ~~xoxo~~ for coming to our community to allow us to speak today to testify on reasons why we do not support separating our communities we serve through redistricting.

The Northwest Arctic Borough's 11 communities (Ambler, Buckland, Deering, Kiana, Kivalina, Kobuk, Kotzebue, Noatak, Noorvik, Selawik and Shungnak) have been part of Senate District T and House District 40 since the Borough's formation in 1986.

The NWAB is a home rule Borough, while general law local governments in Alaska have broad powers, home rule borough's have even greater powers. Adoption of a home-rule charter promotes maximum local self-government to the greatest extent possible. We are held to be the vehicle for strengthening both state and local governments by permitting the people to deal with local problems at the local level. Home Rule Boroughs assist by promoting local government adaptation in a state with great variations in geographic, economic, social and political conditions. Our Borough boundaries exist for a reason. Boundaries exist to provide that each borough must embrace an area and population with common interests to the maximum degree possible. We hold elections determined by our charter and ordinances for composition so that each community is supported by a member or Mayor. The NWAB does not support any plan that breaks our Borough Boundaries and the residents we serve.

The Borough has longstanding dedication to working with its regional partners, NANA Regional Corporation, Maniilaq, and the Northwest Arctic Borough School District through the Northwest Arctic Leadership Team (NWALT). Through NWALT, the Borough has worked together to serve the people of the region by maximizing resources and minimizing duplication, promoting strategies through grassroots involvement, serving as a steering

Ambler Ivisaappaat, Buckland Nunatchiaq, Deering Ipnatchiaq, Kiana Katyaak, Kivalina Kivali-iq, Kobuk Laugviik, Kotzebue Qikiqta-nuk, Noatak Nautaaq, Noorvik Nuurvik, Selawik Akuli-iq, Shungnak Isi-iq

committee to examine region-wide issues, and coordinating to find solutions and recommend policy and resource allocation.

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If the Alaska Redistricting Board moves to split the Northwest Arctic Borough villages, it will have significant determinantal effects on our region's strength and unity.

The Alaska Constitutional explicitly contemplates consideration of local government boundaries, and failing to recognize the importance of maintaining continuity between state and borough boundaries here will prove to be a significant and lasting disservice to our region and residents. In particular, Deering and Buckland are essential pieces of the Northwest Arctic Borough. The Borough and NWALT actively advocate for both villages within the strength and framework of our legislative and policy support on issues like economic development, village infrastructure, water and sewer improvements, heavy equipment procurement, and educational advocacy.

In short, it's hard to understate the damage created by fracturing the Borough's villages between state legislative districts. Our region is faced with many economic, logistical, and socioeconomic challenges, we do not need an additional barrier to effective advocacy and unity for our people and our region.


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**Kotzebue 10/5/2021 Verbal Testimony**

Transcription date: October 17, 2021

Date: October 17, 2021, 7:44 pm

Name: **Matt Tekker**

Email or Phone Contact: 

**Public Comment: Mr. Tekker supports keeping Deering and Buckland in the northwest region as the air carriers are still tied in with Buckland, Deering, and the region's health services. Even though Point Hope is only covered by health services, they are still a part of the northwest region.**