

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD

Verbal Testimony Summaries

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ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

Statewide 10/20/2021 Teleconference Testimony

Summary Date: 11/4/2021

Name: **Kathy Anderson**

Kathy spoke in opposition of a redistricting plan that removes Fritz Creek and other communities out of the same district as Homer. These residents work, go to school, and use the airport in Homer. Additionally, the board should consider the Russian villages that have much in common with another Russian village that is up north of Homer. There is much more in common with Seward.

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Summary Date: November 4, 2021

Name: Gary Ault

Gary lives just outside of Homer and spoke in opposition of redistricting the Kenai Peninsula with Kodiak. It is not an economically smart decision because the East End/Homer/Fritz Creek communities are "one big family" as they all work together, attend school together, etc. Gary does not believe that "political statures" are not a good reason to redistrict these communities.

The Kenai Peninsula is home to 1 million people every summer and home to 1/2 million people year round as others from outside of the peninsula also like to visit. The proposed redistricting plan will hurt the community and split the state "wide open" if political views are more important than the daily life of residents.

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Summary Date: November 4, 2021

Name: **Domnica Basargin**

Domnica Basargin is an East End Road resident and spoke in favor of her community being districted with Homer. Her community would also likely feel the same way as everything they do is in Homer.

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Summary Date: 11/4/2021

Name: **Drasida Basargin**

Drasida lives out East End Road, 25 miles from Homer. Drasida spoke against redistricting her community to Kodiak as she shops, attends school, and does business in Homer. Drasida asked the board to consider keeping her community in District 31.

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Name: **Val Basargin**

Val Basargin spoke in opposition of removing the East End Road community from the Homer district as Homer is the central location for her to shop, fish, vote, and go to school. She is confused why this plan is being proposed. There is no road access to Kodiak.

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Summary Date: November 3, 2021

Name: **Laurie Benson**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **District 31**

Laurie spoke in opposition of the proposed plan(s) that remove Fritz Creek and Fox River out of the Homer district. These areas are economically and socially tied to Homer and are a part of the Homer community. These communities should have the same representation as the Homer community.

Laurie would like to see Seward added back into their district as it once was because Seward is very similar to Homer by being a waterfront community with fishing and tourism. It is more similar to Homer than Kasilof or the south end of Soldotna, which are not tied to Homer in any way and don't have similar industries or relationships with the water.

Laurie would like to see some of the northern part of Kasilof removed from the district as well.

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Name: **Allen Breittnam**

Allen lives 14 miles out East End Road and spoke in opposition of removing Fritz Creek from District 31 and redistricting it with Kodiak. This area is socio-economically tied with Homer. Residents also go to school, work, use the harbor and airport in Homer. Russian villages are also tied to Homer. If anything should happen, it would make more sense to have Seward added to the district as they are also a waterfront community. Drop Kasilof north to gain Seward as the area is not socio-economically tied to Homer.

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Name: **Malcolm Brown**

Malcolm is against redistricting District 31 to the Kodiak district. If the district needs more people, Malcom recommended adding Seward to the district due to similar economies through the waterfront activities and dropping Kasilof northern area. There are multiple reasons to maintain the social, cultural, and economic connectivity between District 31 and Fox River residents.

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Name: **Barbara Buzzelli-Ault**

Barbara is a Fritz Creek resident who spoke in opposition of Fritz Creek being redistricted with Kodiak. She has been self-employed on the Homer Spit for close to 40 years and actively uses the harbor. East End residents work, attend school, etc. in Homer. She does not feel that redistricting should happen with Kodiak where it is 125 miles away via water. They will not get accurate representation from Kodiak. Also, Kodiak does not receive snowfall like Fritz Creek residents do. Additionally, there are close ties of the Russian villages to Nikolaevich. If redistricting needs to happen, Seward should be added to the Homer district as it once was as they are a waterfront community with tourism and fishing. Kodiak is more based on hunting, not waterfront activities.

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Name: **Melanie Dufour**

Melanie lives in District 31 out East End Road and objects to moving her district in with Kodiak. Kodiak and her community have nothing to do with each other. Her children attend school in Homer, she shops in Homer, and the current district is her home district. She does not see any benefit to redistricting her community Kodiak and she would be surprised if the Kodiak community wanted her community to be districted with them.

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Name: **Lisa Fellows**

Public Comment: **Lisa lives out East End Road and opposes the District 31 redistricting to Kodiak as she lives and works in Homer. She does not feel that she would be represented well if the community was redistricted with Kodiak.**

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Summary Date: 11/4/2021

Name: **Pamela Hall**

Pamela is a 50+ year resident of the area and taking East End Road out of its current district makes no sense. East End Road should be included in Homer's district and not in another district. Pamela does not understand why this is happening, it seems like votes are trying to be split.

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Name: **Connie Harris**

Connie recommended redistricting to be based on the school bus transportation route as it is close to neighborhoods and educates the students who are attending school.

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Name: **Avram Kalugin**

Avram spoke in opposition of the East End Road community being redistricted with Kodiak.

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Name: **Damien Kalugin**

Damien lives in Voznesenka Village and is against his community being redistricted to Kodiak. It does not make sense for his community to be excluded from the Kenai Peninsula.

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Statewide 10/20/2021 Teleconference Testimony

Summary Date: November 3, 2021

Name: Hionia Kalugin

Hionia is a Voznesenka resident and stated that during the wintertime, before they were a Kenai Peninsula Borough-maintained road, the roads were not maintained. In the last 5 years, this area has been the last area to be maintained (not until noon or 1 PM), even though it is apart of the system and Hionia expressed concern for the road and safety conditions during the winter. The roads must be maintained and taken care of. To be redistricted to an area such as Kodiak sounds like an unsound idea and this community would have no voice in the maintenance of their roads.

Tourists come to East End during summer time and must be taken care of properly, and this area must be given higher value than what it is given currently.

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Name: Dianne MacRae

Dianne MacRae testified regarding Mary Jackson's proposed map and Dianne does not feel that separating the community would be best. She likes Mary Jackson's proposed map as it is better for the Kenai Peninsula to be underrepresented, but represented as one community. She lived in Anchorage when Kenai was apart of the district, and she has lived in Kenai when the Kenai Peninsula was apart of the Anchorage district; it did not work well. When doing the math, you end up negating a small section of people who are not served or represented impactfully in their area. Dianne asked the board to consider Mary Jackson's proposed map as outlined in her testimony.

Currently, the Kenai community barely sees Sen. Gary Stevens and have learned to adapt to this. It is important that the community does not lose a fraction to be diluted into another place "because of the math".

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Name: **Nila Martushev**

Nila is an East End Road resident and spoke in opposition of this area being districted with Kodiak. Everything East End Road residents do leads to Homer and separating East End Road to Kodiak is not preferred.

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Name: **Ledia Martushoff**

Affiliation: **Voznesenka Village, FoxCreek**

Ledia stated that her community is apart of the Homer community. She shops in Homer and her daughter goes to school in Homer. She is against being removed from District 31 and would like to remain in this district.

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Name: **Stephen McCasland**

Stephen stated that his business is in Homer and he lives in Fritz Creek. He is worried because East End Road is socio-economically tied to Homer and should not be separated. Residents of East End Road go to school, work, and use the harbor and airport in Homer. The Russian villages are closely tied as well. If redistricting must happen, Seward should be added back to the district as it once was as they are also a waterfront community based on tourism and fishing. Drop Kasilof north to gain Seward as that area is not as socio-economically similar to Homer.

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Name: **Robbi Mixon**

Robbi is a Fritz Creek resident and spoke in opposition of redistricting Fritz Creek into Kodiak as there are no socio-economic ties to Kodiak. Redistricting Fritz Creek to Kodiak would be detrimental as the community would not get the representation that they deserve.

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Name: **Kathryne Mulder**

Affiliation: **Fritz Creek**

Kathryne spoke in opposition of Fritz Creek redistricted elsewhere as District 31 allows them to be connected to Homer. Fritz Creek residents have a road system that connects them to Homer where they shop, go to school, travel to for emergencies, etc.

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Name: **Wendy Noomah**

Wendy shops in Homer, her children go to school in Homer, and her husband works in Homer. Wendy is against being in a district that is mostly comprised of Kodiak as she feels she has more in common with people in Seward than in Kodiak.

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Name: **Savannah Paladino**

Savannah lives in the Fritz Creek area and spoke in opposition of redistricting East End Road and the Fox Valley area. Her child attends school in Homer, Savannah works in Homer, and she believes her vote should stay in Homer.

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Name: Queen Parker

Queen spoke in favor of keeping Nikiski with the Kenai Peninsula Borough to remain compact and contiguous with the borough.

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Name: **John Pitcher**

John Pitcher lives at 40168 Alpenglow Circle, 6 miles down East End Road. He lives at the boundary of the district. It would make no sense for District 31 to be included with Kodiak as there are no connections. His wife works in Homer and he does as well, part-time, and there is no connection whatsoever with

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Name: **Andrew Pollack**

Andrew lives out East End Road and spoke in opposition of redistricting Fritz Creek, East End Road communities, Fox River, and Kachemak city. Even though these communities are technically not a part of Homer, the residents shop there, use their boat harbors, the airport, etc. Redistricting these communities to Kodiak is a bad decision as the community would lose representation.

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Name: **Meghan Pollack**

Meghan spoke in opposition of Fritz Creek being redistricted with Kodiak as there are many East End Road residents who frequent Homer for work and recreation.

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Name: **Leedia Polushkin**

Leedia is an East End Road resident whose children attend school in Homer. Additionally, her PO box is in Homer and she shops in Homer. Leedia spoke in opposition of redistricting the East End community to Homer.

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Name: **Shelley Rainwater**

Shelley Rainwater is an East End Road resident who shops and works in Homer, and as such, opposes this community being grouped with Kodiak.

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Name: **George Reutov**

George Reutov spoke in favor of the roads getting fixed in his area..

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Name: **Julie Reutov**

Affiliation: **Fox River**

Julie lives in Fox River District 31 and spoke in opposition of her community being redistricted with Kodiak.

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Name: **Zahar Reutov**

Zahar Reutov is an East End Road resident and spoke in opposition of this area being redistricted with Kodiak and stated that it is unacceptable. His community is in Homer where he lives and works.

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Name: Doug Robbins

Public Comment: **Doug Robbins lives in the Hillside area of Anchorage in house District 28. Board Map v.4 is the best map for Southeast Anchorage/Girdwood. Currently, house District 28 is a distinct community according to state demographic data (household income, marriage rate, low unemployment, high voter turnout, etc.). South Anchorage has no socio-economic integration or real contiguity with communities on the Kenai Peninsula. Similarly, South Anchorage should not be joined with neighborhoods west of the Seward Highway like in Board Map v.3.**

Girdwood is well-connected to Anchorage for shopping, dining, and recreation, but there are no connections to the communities further south including Cooper Landing and Sterling.

Please reject Board Map v.3, AFFR map, Senate Minority Caucus map, AFFER map, and the Doyon Coalition map. Please keep the version of Board Map v.3 to maintain the socio-economic integration that is held in Southeast Anchorage.

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Name: **Tory Rockefeller**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **Self/Small Business Owner**

Tory lives out East End Road in Homer and noted she is a business owner in Homer city limits but lives 12 miles out East End Road. If East End Road was redistricted with another community, she would not have a vote in the Homer election. By redistricting her residence to be a part of Kodiak, she would have no voice in determining what happens to her business or the school district where her daughter attends school.

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Name: **Kristin Rutledge**

Kristin opposed any plan that proposes to redistrict Fritz Creek and East End Road and with Kodiak instead of Homer. This does not make sense economically and socially. Kristin is tied to Homer through shopping and use of the docks and does not see how these communities can be tied to Kodiak.

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Name: Karen Shemet

Karen Shemet, an East End Road (6 mile) Homer resident, asked for the community to remain in its current district and not be redistricted with Kodiak. Karen is in agreement with Poppy Dunson (sp?) especially concerning the Russian Old Believers villages and their affiliation with Nikolaevich and keeping East End Road part of Homer and not part of Kodiak. It makes no sense to district East End Road with Kodiak.

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Name: Christopher Simon

Christopher spoke in favor of the Doyon Coalition map because the Koyukuk River villages have been unfairly split for several years and as a result they are marginalized in the political process. They have some villages on the northern district and some villages are on the Koyukuk River on the northwest district; they are an afterthought to many of the issues. They would like their own representative from their region to represent their interests and values. They have earned the right to remain together. They do not split up other regions, but it has always seemed okay to split up the interior region; this is not okay. Christopher strongly supports to keep the interior villages within one district. It is unfair to do otherwise.

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Name: **Sherry Stead**

Sherry Stead is against the redistricting of Fritz Creek to Kodiak because Fritz Creek is only connected to Homer through one road. Everyone must go through Homer to go anywhere else. Also, Fritz Creek residents grocery shop, access their mailboxes, and attend school in Homer. They are one community connected by one road. She asked that Fritz Creek remain in the same district with Homer. They have nothing in common with Kodiak.

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Name: Clara Ticket

Clara is opposed to moving Buckland and Deering to District 39. Both locations are part of the NANA region (District 40) and their main hub is in Kotzebue where they receive healthcare.

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Name: **Mimi Tolva**

Mimi lives in Kachemak Bay out east End Road. Mimi read that there is a proposed plan for the Kachemak Bay to be districted with Kodiak and spoke in opposition of this proposal because everyone in Kachemak Bay does business in Homer, not Kodiak. Mimi strongly urged the board to not district her community with Kodiak.

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Name: **Dennis Wade**

Dennis leaves out East End Road and he does not believe it is a good idea to put Fox River, Fritz Creek, and East End Road in a district with Kodiak. These communities are much different than the Kodiak region.

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Name: Robert Wall

Robert lives in District 29, Precinct 190 and expressed support for Mary Jackson's testimony on 10/11/21. Robert spoke in opposition of the Kenai Peninsula being redistricted with Kodiak and Nikiski being districted with South Anchorage. Robert would like to see the contiguous continuity of the Kenai Peninsula being honored. The road system, electrical systems, school board systems, the borough assembly, etc. are all tied together within the Kenai Peninsula. The 19,600 residents, although a little larger of 18,335, is still within the federal limit of 10% deviation (+/-) and he would like to see the 3 districts within the Kenai Peninsula for fair representation.

Board Map v.3 and v.4 are the "most palatable" maps for the Kenai Peninsula. Robert Wall submitted 3 written/emailed testimonies as well.