

Kenai Peninsula Borough
Office of the Borough Mayor

MEMORANDUM

TO: Wayne Ogle, Assembly President
Members, Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly

FROM: Charlie Pierce, Mayor *CP*
Norm Blakeley, Assembly Member *(NB) for N.B.*

DATE: August 23, 2018

RE: Resolution 2018-036, Opposing the City of Soldotna Plan to Annex Adjacent Property without Seeking Voter Approval (Mayor, Blakeley)

While we recognize that the City of Soldotna has devoted a lot of time, funds, and effort into considering and developing its plan to annex adjacent property, we oppose implementing the plan without seeking voter approval. The affected property owners are not all voters, but all voters in the existing limits of the City of Soldotna and who reside in the proposed areas for annexation will be impacted by the annexation if it is approved.

The legislative review process that Soldotna has chosen to follow means that if the Local Boundary Commission ("LBC") approves the petition after following its process, the voters will not have a chance to vote on this action. Instead, the LBC's recommendations will be submitted to the legislature during the first 10 days of the session and will be deemed approved 45 days later unless denied by a concurrent legislative resolution. Therefore, if the legislature takes no action the LBC's recommendations will be automatically approved.

We have received numerous requests, publicly and privately, from affected residents asking the borough to oppose this annexation if the voters are not allowed to vote on it. One young man privately indicated that he went to fight in Iraq for the freedom to vote and now won't have that freedom on this issue. Many residents in the areas selected for annexation intentionally chose to live outside of the city limits. Those people and many residents of the city want to be able to vote on this question.

These are all borough residents and in our view the assembly has a duty to consider this issue and convey to the city its support of these residents' concerns.