



## CITY OF PETERSBURG

P.O. BOX 329 • PETERSBURG, ALASKA 99833

TELEPHONE (907) 772-4519

FAX (907) 772-3759

March 25, 2011

To: Honorable Representative Peggy Wilson

Fr: City of Petersburg

Re: Secure Rural Schools Funding

Dear Representative Wilson:

On behalf of Mayor Dwyer and the Petersburg City Council – The City of Petersburg, Alaska has gone on record many times in support of any legislation that would provide assurances that our children will continue to have the opportunities to receive a quality education. Being able to provide a solid education foundation enables them to become and remain productive citizens, not only to our local community, but for our country as a whole.

Petersburg, a community that existed long before any federal lands were claimed and laws put into effect, is surrounded by the Tongass National Forest. The claiming of federal lands and the subsequent enacted laws have critically handicapped, if not nearly eliminated, one of our once traditional means of community economic stability – logging. With the continued restrictions being placed on the federal lands that surround our community (Roadless Rule) we experience a continued erosion of allowable means in which to sustain our way of life.

The Secure Rural Schools program is of critical importance to our public school system. Due to a struggling economy and continued restrictions for economic use of the lands surrounding our community, we cannot finance an adequate public school program on our own.

We endorse your efforts to urge the US Congress to approve a long-term authorization of the Secure Rural School Funding and Communities Self-Determination Act.

Thank you for your support for Petersburg and other once timber-dependent communities in Southeast.

Kathy O'Rear, MMC  
City Clerk