

**Petersburg Borough, Petersburg, AK
Resolution #2017-02**

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING SENATE BILL (SB) 28 AND HOUSE BILL (HB) 85, MUNICIPAL LAND SELECTION FOR THE PETERSBURG BOROUGH, AND REQUESTING THE STATE REFRAIN FROM DISPOSING OF ANY VACANT, UNAPPROPRIATED AND UNRESERVED STATE LAND WITHIN THE PETERSBURG BOROUGH UNTIL THE BILLS HAVE COMPLETED THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

WHEREAS, SB 28, introduced by Senator Bert Stedman, and HB 85, introduced by Representative Kreiss-Tomkins, will set the total general land entitlement for the Petersburg Borough at 14,666 acres; and

WHEREAS, this is an increase of 12,770 acres from its current level of entitlement and will bring the Borough's land entitlement to a level that meets the average amount of land received by the other eighteen boroughs in the state; and

WHEREAS, SB 28 and HB 85 would increase Petersburg's land entitlement for the reason the land entitlement program was created: "[f]or the development needs of the new borough and to address the economic, cultural and resource-based goals of its residents"; and

WHEREAS, 96% of land within the borough is owned by the federal government and locked up by the "roadless" rule or wilderness designations; and

WHEREAS, when the Petersburg Borough formed in 2013, it received a general land grant entitlement from the state of 1,896 acres. This amount was reduced by the 457.47 acres already received by the City of Petersburg, a substantial part of which is restricted from development for public, charitable, or recreational use, leaving a net land entitlement of 1,438.53 acres for the newly formed borough; and

WHEREAS, 1,438.53 acres simply does not provide sufficient developable land to support economic development such as material sites of rock and sand for road and other improvements, waterfront land for tourism development or residential homes, etc.; and

WHEREAS, if SB 28 and/or HB 85 is adopted, all selections would be made from vacant, unappropriated, and unreserved state lands. No selections would interfere with existing State, University, or Alaska Mental Health Trust lands, including the Southeast State Forest, or private ownership.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Petersburg Borough Assembly supports and encourages adoption of SB 28 (Stedman) and HB 85 (Kreiss-Tomkins) by the 30th Alaska Legislature; and, requests the State refrain from disposing of any vacant, unappropriated, and unreserved State land within the Petersburg Borough until the bills have completed the legislative process.

Passed and Approved by the Petersburg Borough Assembly on February 6, 2017.

ATTEST:


Mark Jensen, Mayor


Debra K. Thompson, Clerk