



February 3, 2017

Hon. Bert Stedman  
Alaska State Senate  
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Stedman,

The Petersburg Chamber of Commerce Board is writing in support for SB 28 to increase the general land entitlement to the Borough of Petersburg so it will be more closely aligned with 14 of the 18 other Boroughs that have formed across the State of Alaska.

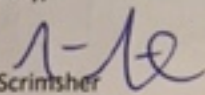
According to ADNRR, the Petersburg Borough's current land entitlement is 1,374 acres – approximately only .07% of the Borough's total land area. Through this same legislative process, other Boroughs have received close to .8% of their total land area. Petersburg's request would not set a precedent as the 14,600 acres would be less than .79% of the total lands within the Borough. It would however move the Petersburg Borough towards more economic self-sufficiency.

In recent years, State land within our Borough has been designated to the Alaska Mental Health Trust, The University of Alaska, and Southeast State Forest; leaving little for the Borough to select for future economic development and planning.

The land entitlement was created for the purpose in which the Municipality is asking: the lands would be used to address the economic, cultural, and resource-based goals of the Borough and its residents.

We understand that in the near future, Municipalities will be responsible to fund more of their own operations, relying less on state and Federal monies. The Borough's request is moving them toward being more self-sufficient and an increased land base is essential in moving the Borough in that direction.

Sincerely,

  
Seth Scrimsher

Board President

Petersburg Chamber of Commerce

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**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

Presented by: The Manager  
Introduced: 02/13/2017  
Drafted by: A. G. Mead

## RESOLUTION OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA

Serial No. 2790(b)

### **A Resolution Endorsing Passage of House Bill 85 and Senate Bill 28, "An Act Relating to the General Grant Land Entitlement for the Petersburg Borough."**

WHEREAS, Petersburg and Juneau have shared a long history as neighboring communities nestled along the fjords of Southeast Alaska; and

WHEREAS, Petersburg is a vital partner in the fabric of Southeast Alaska, linked by a common maritime heritage; and

WHEREAS, the success of Southeast Alaska relies upon the individual and joint success of all of the communities in the region; and

WHEREAS, the newly formed Petersburg Borough has applied to the State of Alaska to acquire lands within its boundaries; and

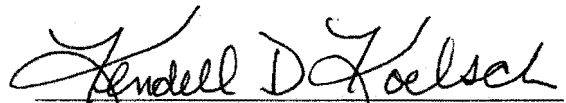
WHEREAS, all municipalities in Alaska share the common goal of maximizing control of lands within their boroughs, and the community of Juneau supports the Petersburg Borough's right to select state lands within its borders.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA:

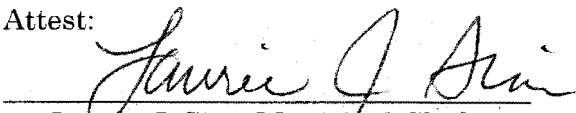
**Section 1.** The Assembly of the City and Borough of Juneau endorses passage of House Bill 85 and Senate Bill 28: "An Act relating to the general grant land entitlement for the Petersburg Borough" to select 14,666 acres to satisfy its entitlement to state property.

**Section 2. Effective Date.** This resolution shall be effective immediately after its adoption.

Adopted this 13<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2017.

  
Kendell D. Koelsch, Mayor

Attest:

  
Laurie J. Sica, Municipal Clerk