

From: [George Debi Cole](#)
To: [Commission, Boundary \(CED sponsored\)](#)
Cc: [kathi riemer](#); [Terry Karil Miller](#); [Don & Charlene Anderson](#); [Ron Daun Bromenschenkels](#); [Thea Greenfield](#); [Ron and Janie Reed](#); [Ken Laura Howard](#); [Jeff Ray](#); [Gary & Arlene Williams](#); [Dana and Russ Thynes](#); [Cathy Villasenor](#); [Bob & Ione Lynn](#); [Dona Malhiot Laubhan](#); [Jerry Laubhan](#); [Denny Heimdahl](#); [Tom & Judy Reinarts](#); [Bill Menish](#); [Ruth Johansen](#); [Bill Johansen](#); [Candyce Jones](#)
Subject: Petersburg Borough
Date: Friday, March 30, 2012 8:29:52 AM
Attachments: [School Funding 2.jpg](#)

Dear Brent,

I read your Preliminary Report regarding the Incorporation of a Home Rule Borough of Petersburg and, not surprisingly, disagree with most of your findings. It was amusing to me that in many cases the reasoning I used to oppose the formation of a borough is exactly the same reasoning you used to support borough formation.

An example would be your dismissal of Kake's concern for their subsistence life style (Page 27). You reasoned that such activities are regulated by the state. This is exactly the point I made regarding Petersburg's right to fish and hunt in the proposed borough. Forming a borough will not have any impact on their right to hunt or fish in those locations. No impact = no reason. Yet, you spend several pages arguing that it means something. We might as well argue that the sky is blue and since we all like it that way, we should form a borough because it reflects a common interest.

Another example is contained on Page 29 where you imply borough formation will aid in funding education. Any increase in funding provided by borough formation will be offset by a reduction in state contribution. Thus, there is no increased educational benefit. It is as if you are saying, "Let's form a borough so we can have no change in our educational system." You imply borough formation will improve the educational process while I assert there will be no change at all. In fact, any change is likely to be negative in nature. I suggest you examine the Gateway Borough's difficulty in supporting public education. They seem to be finding it very difficult to meet their budgetary requirements. I attached a chart that shows the impact borough formation will have on Petersburg's school funding.

At our very first meeting with you in Keene Channel, I asked you to define the standards for borough formation and you did so in an oblique and indecisive way. It now seems obvious why you were so vague in your answer. It appears your mandate is to usher us as quickly as possible into a borough and leaving standards defined in such a hazy fog allows you to spin any conclusion in such a way as to make that happen.

Bob Lynn has written a much more comprehensive reply to your report. I agree and support and subscribe by reference to the points he makes in his brief.

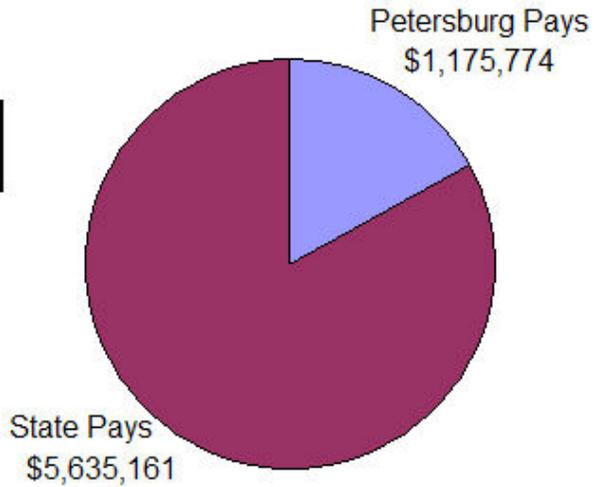
I appreciate your efforts as a state employee. You are obviously dedicated, efficient, and knowledgeable. I wish I could appreciate your conclusions.

Sincerely,
George Cole
Keene Channel

FY 12 School Funding as **Petersburg City**

Total funding **\$6,810,935**

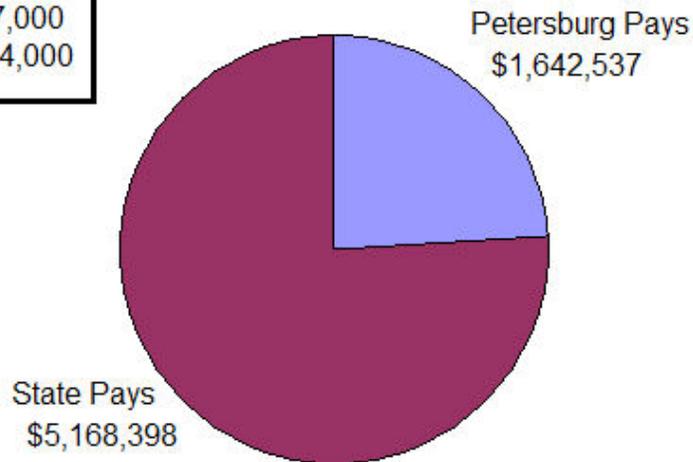
Total Funding Does Not Change



FY 12 School Funding as **Petersburg Borough**

Total Funding **\$6,810,935**

The State Will Want An Extra \$467,000
Borough Tax Will Get An Extra \$184,000



Note - Amounts from
Public School Funding
Program Overview,
Updated September
2011, Page 9 and from
the Petition to Form the
Petersburg Borough