

Susan Christensen
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Local Boundary Commission Staff
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September 14, 2011

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing in strong support of the proposed Petersburg Borough formation effort. There are several reasons my family and I desire to be included in a new Petersburg Borough:

Our property lies along the Mitkof Highway immediately south of the existing Petersburg City Limits. We fully benefit from all City amenities with the exception of water and sewer utilities. Our children attended Petersburg City Schools. We use the public library several times a week; we enjoy the community gym and aquatic center; we shop in the stores downtown. If we had a fire or other emergency, the City would respond. For all these services and more, we pay nothing but sales tax. We feel it is irresponsible to contribute so little to the community we depend on for so much.

The local political, economic and policy decisions made by Petersburg voters, City Councilors, and other City officials directly affect us; however we are not enfranchised to vote in local elections ourselves nor can we serve on City boards or advisory committees. In every election, seats on boards and committees including City Council are left to be appointed because those eligible for election choose not to run. A Petersburg borough would enlarge the pool of citizens eligible for political service, giving broader representation of ideas and perspectives to local government.

In addition to these points, I am employed by the City of Petersburg Community Development Department. My family and I don't want to become swallowed by another more distant borough government such as Juneau, or languish as part of some nebulous 'unincorporated' borough. This community has our undivided allegiance and the formation of a Petersburg Borough has our unequivocal support.

Sincerely,

Susan Christensen