

SUPPORT FOR THE PETERSBURG BOROUGHS

We have lived on State Land Lottery land Lot 17 Duncan Canal 1981 till 1986 and lot 1 Keene Channel subdivision 1986 till present. We also own #4 Rory Road in an area adjacent to Papkes Landing. As a result, we assume we will be obligated to pay a substantial property tax levy. I understand the difficulty many of my neighbors have in wanting to give up the lack of taxes and little government control. It is a situation that is unique to Alaska and to my knowledge does not exist in any other part of the United States, or for my knowledge most western democracies. As Alaskans we pride ourselves on our uniqueness and our abilities to live without the normal services most Americans deem necessary. In light of these comments we support the Borough for 3 main reasons.

The enabling legislation for the State Land lottery and disposal legislation referred to the desire of the state to grant or sell land to the residents of the state with the intent to transfer State land to private individuals and companies. One of the reasons was to put public land in private hands so it would be able to support local public education. While we are currently in an unorganized Borough, we always assumed we would be required to pay tax at some point.

During this process we have asked ourselves one basic question: Could we live the life style we enjoy if Petersburg did not exist? While it would be possible, the practicality of access to the Community Hospital and Clinic, Airport, Ferry Terminal, Barge Companies, City Boat Harbor, and other retail establishments would be difficult. I am aware if we were retired or not working we could take the time and expense to travel to other communities in the region. Over the years the local police and volunteer fire department have responded many times to Keene Channel and Papkes Landing. While we have

been fortunate enough not to require these emergency services, we have called for support several times on behalf of our neighbors. We also use the City Public Library very extensively. While we do support the City of Petersburg by our paying sales tax and the inclusion of our numbers during the grant process from the State and Federal Government, we receive few services. We feel the Charter by only requiring all newly incorporated areas be responsible for a 4 mil levy as required by State Statue for the support of public education will ensure the tax fairness between us and the current City of Petersburg.

The main reason we support this process is the support for local public education that this proposed Borough will provide. We would rather deal with a local government that we can participate in or appeal all decisions that will affect us. If required to participate on a state level or with another distant area community, our voice will be diluted or ineffective. Only by providing a strong support for public education can we assure ourselves of the vibrant and at times very contentious democracy that we all enjoy.

David Kensinger

Mona Christian