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**Commission, Boundary (CED sponsored)**

**From:** antpat@gci.net [antpat@gci.net]  
**To:** Commission, Boundary (CED sponsored)  
**Cc:** antpat@gci.net  
**Subject:** Petersburg Borough  
**Attachments:**  [Psg Borough.pdf\(62KB\)](#)

**Sent:** Tue 10/25/2011 11:31 AM

Letter in support of the proposed Petersburg Borough attached. Thank you for your consideration. Patricia Norheim

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Patricia Norheim  
P.O. Box 642  
Petersburg, AK 99833  
October 25, 2011  
By Email

Local Boundary Commission Staff  
550 West Seventh Avenue, Suite 1771  
Anchorage, AK 99501-3510  
Email: [lbc@alaska.gov](mailto:lbc@alaska.gov)

Re: Petersburg Borough

Local Boundary Commission:

I have been a resident of Petersburg for 83 years and I feel compelled to address this issue. Petersburg is a fishing community, first and foremost, and this industry is the economic financial base of the city. My father came here in 1916 and started the first shrimp cannery in Southeastern Alaska and the family is still managing this seafood facility. The fishing grounds that provide the catch for our local canneries extend from Petersburg to north of Holkham Inlet. The Petersburg based fishing fleet comprises 540 vessels and over 1,200 commercial permits. The fleet harvest salmon, halibut, crab, shrimp, other shellfish and herring roe throughout the area including north of Holkham Inlet, which is designated by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game's Division of Commercial Fisheries as the Petersburg Management area. Petersburg based fishermen constitute the majority of fishery participants in this district. For example, in 2009, 80.9% of the salmon landings were by Petersburg residents and over 70% of shellfish landings were made by permit holders from Petersburg. It is clear that Petersburg residents have a history of economic connection to the proposed Petersburg Borough. The proposed boundaries are important to the economic future of this community and the history of Petersburg usage of these waters shows the residents' dependence on these areas and demonstrate a vested interest in activities occurring in the bays, streams and surrounding lands.

Additionally, for 27 years, I served on our local School Board, president of the board for several years, and appointed by the governor to serve on the State Board of Education for 4 years, including a term as president of that board as well. Public education is a priority in our society that we have agreed to provide and pay for, regardless of whether a household had children enrolled in the district, because it benefits our entire community. The 4 mil property tax within the proposed borough boundaries, lower than most other Alaskan boroughs for borough properties not connected to the borough seat, would be used to further support the Petersburg School District.

While the seafood industry is the mainstay of our local economy, and education is a priority in our community, we are also interested in diversifying our economy, and the proposed boundaries would be conducive to that goal. Petersburg would be an ideal support center for any mining, hydro, tourism, and timber development in the surrounding area. I hope that the Commission will see fit to grant Petersburg our proposed original borough boundaries. Thank you for the opportunity to express my personal support for this action.

Respectfully yours,



Patricia Norheim