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**Commission, Boundary (CED sponsored)**

**From:** Kari Petersen [queenmuskeg@gmail.com]  
**To:** Commission, Boundary (CED sponsored)  
**Cc:** clerk@ci.petersburg.ak.us  
**Subject:** City of Petersburg borough petition  
**Attachments:**  [Borough Letter.docx\(189KB\)](#)

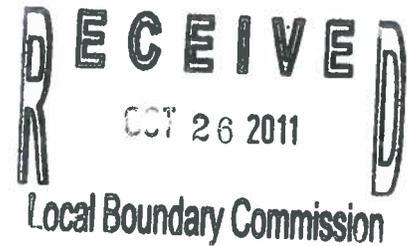
**Sent:** Wed 10/26/2011 4:22 PM

Dear Local Boundary Commission,  
Attached is my letter of support for the City of Petersburg's borough petition.  
Thank you,  
Kari Petersen



October 26, 2011

Attention: Commission Members  
Local Boundary Commission  
550 West 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 1770  
Anchorage, AK 99501-3510  
Email: [LBC@alaska.gov](mailto:LBC@alaska.gov)



Re: Petersburg Borough Application

I am writing in support of the City of Petersburg's borough application. Forming a borough has been a contentious issue in our community and surrounding area but the individuals who participated in moving this application forward worked very hard to include those who are opposed to the borough boundaries. I am in support of the Petersburg borough application because it is important for Petersburg to have more of a voice in what affects our community environmentally and economically. Our community's recent loss of a permit to develop Ruth Lake for hydropower is an excellent example of why the City of Petersburg needs to be a borough.

I understand that Juneau has planned for many years to annex the area they have now applied for in reaction to the City of Petersburg's borough application. I also understand that the area Juneau is applying for was originally considered a model boundary by the LBC. However, with the new House District that is being formed between downtown Juneau and Petersburg I feel it would be in Petersburg's best interest if this area were reconsidered. I feel it has become increasingly important for Petersburg and Juneau to have some property with cross over interests between the two communities. The reason Petersburg residents are opposed to being in a House District with downtown Juneau is because individually we are out numbered and feel Petersburg's collective voice will be lost in this combination. If Juneau were granted the lands they wish to annex there would be no intersection *for Juneau* of Petersburg's interest. However if Petersburg were granted this land in a borough it would tie the two communities together in a working relationship. I don't think it would even-out the

dynamic of the new House District but it would serve to balance the dynamic a little more than it currently is.

Petersburg has traditionally used the area north of Cape Fanshaw for herring fisheries, long-lining, and crabbing. Our community's economy is dependent on fisheries. Although Juneau has a fishing fleet their community's economy is not dependent on it. In regard to the disputed area, Juneau's economy is more dependent on tourism and mining, two industries with the potential for serious impacts on fisheries. Environmentally and economically it is vitally important for Petersburg to have a voice in the use of the land that Juneau is now seeking to annex.

I feel that the opposition from the City of Kupreanof is hypocritical. These individual's use our schools, harbors with extended parking, sanitation services, fire and EMS services, libraries, and Parks and Rec facilities. Historically the City of Kupreanof residents have had access to these facilities without a tax burden or charges differing from tax paying residents of Petersburg. The City of Kupreanof does not offer any services/facilities for its residence; the City of Petersburg provides the services that create a sustainable community for the City of Kupreanof. In my opinion a boundary line for a borough should include the City of Kupreanof for the reasons listed. However, if the City of Kake is contesting the boundary line across Kupreanof Island I would appreciate the historical use of those particular lands being considered, and a compromise being reached.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Kari Petersen  
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P.O. Box 2044  
Petersburg, AK 99833