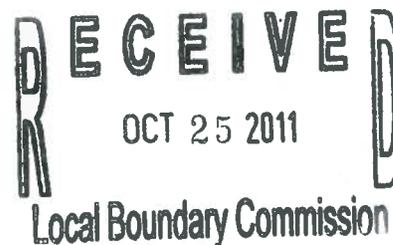


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Commission, Boundary (CED sponsored)

From: Bill Tremblay [btrembla@gci.net] **Sent:** Tue 10/25/2011 10:36 PM
To: Commission, Boundary (CED sponsored)
Cc:
Subject: Petersburg Borough
Attachments:  [ATT1381633.htm\(183B\)](#)  [Letter in SUPPORT of the Petersburg Borough.docx\(18KB\)](#)

Attached is my letter of support for the Petersburg Borough.



Letter in SUPPORT of the Petersburg Borough

I was elected as a member of the Petersburg City Council for nine (9) years beginning in the late '90's and up to 2008. As a member of the council I considered many proposals for funding services to the area. Let me be clear, many proposals for funding considered the city AND the surrounding area that would benefit from our decisions. Examples of this were assisting funding for a troubled fish hatchery in Blind Slough, purchase of equipment that could respond to emergencies within or near our community (harbormaster boat), supporting rates for services that encouraged their use despite the use of other general funds to support the services (Petersburg bailer and refuse facility), and support continued funding of services that provided free training to individuals wanting to serve the general population of the area (Fire and EMT services).

The Alaska State Constitution expects that at some time every community **shall** reside within a borough. Just a few years ago this almost came to pass through legislation to address lands for the State's University System. Prior to that legislation, the City of Petersburg was pursuing annexation of parts/all of Mitkof Island as a result of the State DOT locating and construction a ferry terminal on the south end of the island. The annexation discussion followed discussions with DOT and their assumption that the City of Petersburg might assume the maintenance of this road at sometime in the future (wishful thinking on their part), but more important was the city's understanding that services (specifically emergency) would like need to be expanded to cover this area to address the increased traffic going too or from the terminal. While the State has never met their intentions for the use of this facility after its construction, other use by the Inter-Island Ferry Authority did increase some traffic for a short time and there is some consideration of a new entity using this existing dock. The City of Petersburg will still maintain the responsibility for emergency services on the island which can and should be supported by the formation of a borough.

A couple of years ago, the board administering Mental Health Lands in the State considered a parking fee for vehicles and trailers parking at Papke's Landing. In the radio discussion, I heard several property owners from that area openly express and interest in having the City of Petersburg secure the lands to manage? So, why would the City consider intervening in these issues unless there was a compelling interest for the City or its citizens? First form the borough and then let's discuss the management of these lands.

In addition to the Mitkof Island services, Petersburg serves a very productive fishing fleet that uses most or all of the waters in the inside passage and some outer coastal areas. Commercial operations extend up to Lynn Canal, to Taku Inlet, through Chatham and Fredrick

Sound, to the outside coasts of Baranof and Kuiu Island, and down to Clarence and Sumner Strait. (My daughter spent almost all of her summer on a local fish tender buying from our local Petersburg fleet in Lynn Canal. Two summers ago she spent her summer in Taku Inlet.) While Petersburg is not considering all of these areas for the borough, the areas north to the Juneau Borough Boundary are well within the influence of the proposed Petersburg Borough regarding our economic dependence and community support. The fishing fleet includes both the salmon and crabbing fishing fleet. In addition to the fishing community, there are a number of commercial guides using the area as a part of their business. While the number of guides is not as high as Juneau the number of businesses per capita is significantly higher.

I support the Petersburg Borough so I can help pay for the education within my community. My children benefited from the donations of other taxpayers in their education and I have no qualms with giving back. Both children attended 12 years of school and have gone on to higher education using the good foundation provided by the community. If we are to prosper as city it will come through and educated population that understands the world around us.

The property taxes I pay to the borough will keep my money in the community. While property taxes won't be a one-to-one deduction on my federal taxes, a higher amount of the money I pay in taxes will stay here. Long gone are the days when we the city council would fly back to see "Uncle Ted" to seek direct appropriations to support a project in our community. The federal deficit makes the likelihood of junkets to DC a thing of the past.

The fear of "taxation without representation" is a red herring. In our most recent election one city council seat had one person run unopposed and a second seat staying vacant. Other board and commissions have vacancies that could surely benefit from a larger pool of concerned citizens.

I support the Petersburg Borough boundary as submitted in its application. For the record, I moved to Petersburg in 1991. I have lived outside the borough for approximately three years.

Bill Tremblay

9.6 Mile Mitkof Hwy; P.O. Box 662

Petersburg, AK 99833

(907) 772-4461