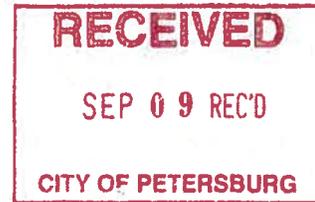


Carl and Beverly Williams

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September 9, 2011

Local Boundary Commission

Dear Sir/Madam/Ms

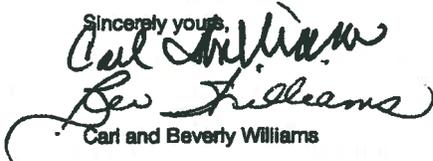
We are writing to support the formation of a Petersburg Borough. While there are a variety of reasons that we support borough formation, there are three main considerations:

1. Control of our own resources and our own destinies. There have been a variety of attempts by outside interests to develop mines and hydro projects within the proposed Borough boundaries. These developments WILL occur, regardless of what local citizens may wish. The only way to guide these developments is with the formation of a borough. We cannot simply ignore these forces in hopes that they will go away. We need to ensure that, as local residents, we have some say in the planning and development of such projects to ensure that they are of benefit to us, and not just corporations and outside interests.
2. The avid desire of the City and Borough of Juneau to annex almost half of the proposed land that would be within the boundaries of the proposed Petersburg Borough is a clear demonstration of the value of forming a borough and the value of the resources within the proposed borough, even though their proposal clearly violates the original model borough boundaries as set forth by the state.
3. The formation of a borough by Wrangell has prompted a rebirth of that community. Instead of fading away after the closure of the lumber industry, Wrangell has built a new harbor, attracted new businesses and is beginning to show signs of regrowth and prosperity. We need to do the same in Petersburg. The fishing resource and canneries that form the basis of our economy are showing signs of stress. With the formation of a borough, we have a greatly increased chance of having our voices heard in the management of our local resources, and a better basis for attracting new business and growth on our terms—not some outside groups terms.

We can hide our heads in the muskeg, and have our lives controlled by outside interests, or we can step up to the plate. Those who oppose borough formation because they don't want to pay taxes, or just want to be left alone are deluding themselves. The question is do they want a voice in what will happen or do they want to leave themselves to the whims and indifference of groups and interests that have no concern for local issues and resources other than to exploit them and profit from them.

The choice seems clear to us. We wish to have some say and stake in the future of our community and borough formation seems to be a far better option than simply hoping that things will stay the same or get better.

Sincerely yours,


Carl and Beverly Williams