



CLAUSEN MEMORIAL MUSEUM P.O. Box 708 PETERSBURG, AK 99833

May 21, 2020

Dear Assembly Members,

We write in regard to additional funding reductions for Clausen Memorial Museum, as part of the community services underwritten by the Borough. In the past, the Museum received over \$40,000 through this arrangement. More recently, this figure has been reduced. We were able to offset some of the shortfall with cruise ship admissions and shop sales, special event revenue, art sales and the publication of Tin Can Country. Even so, the Museum has operated on a fine fiscal line.

This year the Borough proposed decreasing the Museum's funding by an additional 10%, or about \$7,000. As we operate on a slim margin, this is significant. We request restoration of the funding in order to properly maintain our collection, and retain most of our staff. In anticipation of substantially reduced revenues our director already has taken a 1/3 cut in pay for a portion of March, April and May, and we have not brought back one part-time staff person. However, workload doesn't go away simply because the doors are closed temporarily. Meanwhile, we anticipate sales and admission losses of approximately \$15,000 from the drop in cruise passenger visitation alone.

As the repository of and a conduit for learning about Petersburg's diverse natural and human history and local arts, we run a fairly frugal operation. This year's mandated closure and community pandemic response severely limited our fundraising and revenue generation. While we anticipate a brighter future, it is critical we maintain some standard of operation so as not to jeopardize the art and historical materials in our collection, and to continue mandatory administrative tasks and record-keeping required by law.

Sincerely,

Nancy Strand, President
Denise Galli, Treasurer
Grace Wolf, Director

Glo Wollen, Vice-President
Rovinson Hampton, Director

Elizabeth Walsh, Secretary
Mary Rokey, Director