



June 20, 2017

Carmelia Strickland  
US Department of Health and Human Services  
Administration for Children and Families  
Administration for Native Americans  
330 C Street, SW  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Ms. Strickland,

The Petersburg Borough Assembly wishes to express support for the Petersburg Indian Association's (PIA) application for funding from ANA under the Social and Economic Development Strategies for Alaska-SEDS-AK opportunity. This project will build the administrative and managerial capacity of the government of the PIA while developing a Comprehensive Strategy for the Tribe. This Comprehensive Strategy is necessary for PIA to effectively serve the needs of the community in order to ensure a vibrant Tribal community into the future.

The native population in Petersburg, AK has dropped from 334 in 1990 to 172 in 2013<sup>1</sup>. In an effort to begin the process of identifying the cause of and addressing this major population decline, PIA conducted a survey of Tribal citizens in December of 2016 to determine whether there is a need for developing programs to address the issues facing the Tribe. The survey had 68 respondents. Very large percentages of respondents ranked as "critical" the need for PIA to develop programs to address each of the major issues identified in the survey. The major categories of issues included: Cultural / Tribal Culture / Language; Economy / Jobs / Economic Development / Financial Stability; Housing / Affordable / Senior / Energy Efficiency; Services / Childcare / Healthcare / Substance Abuse Counseling; and Infrastructure / Transportation / Telecommunications / Parks.

We encourage you to fund this application which will promote needed economic and social self-sufficiency for our Tribal community. Thank you for consideration of this project and application.

Sincerely,

Cindi Lagoudakis  
Mayor