



December 18, 2018

Department of Housing and Urban Development
Alaska Office of Native American Programs
3000 C Street, Suite 401
Anchorage, AK 99503

Re: Petersburg Indian Association's Application for Providing Reliable, Cost Effective Heating and Reduced Cost of Living for Petersburg's Most Vulnerable Low Income Tribal Citizens

Dear Office of Native American Programs,

The Petersburg Borough Assembly wholeheartedly supports the Petersburg Indian Association's (PIA) above referenced application for funding from HUD under the Community Development Block Grant Program for Indian Tribes and Alaska Native Villages opportunity.

Our community has experienced an outmigration of Tribal citizens, losing over 48% of its Tribal population over the past two decades. High cost of living, with high energy costs and housing costs in particular, have been identified as the biggest concern for the long-term viability of the Petersburg Tribal community.

This project will directly address the needs of affordable housing and sustainable energy costs in the Tribal community. This project will provide for the rehabilitation of at least 15 homes for low-income households in Petersburg and will prioritize the most vulnerable members of the community, elders and small children. Housing rehabilitations will reduce energy costs, update housing to meet housing codes and standards, and provide needed training to homeowners to promote self-sufficiency in the community. Additionally, the heating equipment installed will take advantage of the community's renewable energy resources – hydroelectric power – and reduce reliance on fossil fuels.

We recognize that affordable energy and housing costs are vital to the long-term sustainability of the community, and therefore is fully supportive of PIA's application and of this effort. We strongly encourage you to fund this application which will promote economic self-sufficiency for our Tribal community. Thank you for your consideration of this project and application.

Sincerely,

Mark Jensen
Mayor