

Petersburg Borough, AK – FY 2018 Federal Projects & Priorities

The following lists the Borough's top Federal priorities and projects for FY 2018.

Section 107 Army Corps – South Harbor Dredging – Our South Harbor is filling in. Vessels often run aground and the boat stalls along the shore are impassable during stages of the tide. We are working with the Alaska region of the Army Corps on a feasibility study to dredge the harbor under the Section 107 small navigation projects program. We support full funding of the program.

Coast Guard Fast Response Cutter Homeporting – The 110' island class USCG *Anacapa* has provided valuable to service in the protection of life at sea for Petersburg's fishing and boating communities as well as other nearby S.E. coastal communities. But the USCG is planning to retire its entire 110' fleet. We strongly support that one of the new 154' FRCs be homeported in Petersburg once the *Anacapa* is retired.

Transboundary Waters & British Columbia Mines -- Alaska's southeast salmon fisheries are vulnerable to a potential hazardous spill from the mines under development in British Columbia that share our watersheds. We support continued engagement by the Delegation and State Dept, as well as possible investigation by the International Joint Commission, to ensure that proper water quality, monitoring, and protections are in place as the mines are developed and operated.

Southern Sea Otter Management – The rapid growth of the Southern Sea Otter population over the last decade has been a scourge to near-shore fish and crab populations and the fisheries that depend on them. The Borough favors re-introduction of legislation that would expand Native handicraft business development that has been impeded by restrictive USFWS rules on otter products production and sale.

Scow Bay Haul Out -- \$6,000,000 -- Development of a small vessel haul out and work yard for use by commercial fishing, sport/tour charter, and private recreational vessels. Improvements include replacement of a deteriorated and inadequate ramp for hauling boats in and out of the water, vessel washdown pad, and water, sewer and electrical systems. Ready for construction end of 2017

Secure Rural Schools – Petersburg receives approximately \$600,000 annually in SRS payments that go to our schools. The State's national forest communities stand to lose \$10 million per year without program extension. Even if Congress passes legislation that results in increased timber harvest on Forest Service lands, it will not make up for this lost revenue, so the program should be extended regardless of any timber reform legislation.

Pink Salmon Disaster Assistance – The Governor has determined that salmon fishermen and processors in the Aleutians were negatively affected by the poor pink salmon runs in the State and has submitted a fisheries disaster request to the Federal government. The Borough supports the Department of Commerce's determination that a fisheries disaster has occurred and requests support for disaster relief funding.

PILT – The Borough receives funding from DOI's PILT program (approximately \$550,000) to compensate for the loss of revenue due to the presence of non-taxable Federal land within its borders that totals 1.8 million acres. The program has expired and we strongly support its extension/reauthorization.

Essential Air Service – The Essential Air Service program ensures that the Borough's remote and rural communities are able to receive air service. We support funding at current levels for the program and oppose any cut-backs or so-called "reforms" in the FAA reauthorization bill.