

August 12, 2020

Good Afternoon Assembly and PEDC,

I am reaching out to you on behalf of the Chamber and advocating for our local businesses. As you are aware, we are in the midst of a trying time that is affecting our town, Petersburg, across the board. Due to COVID-19 our businesses have lost revenue from having little to no tourist and cruise ships. As of Thursday, August 6, all cruise ships have been cancelled.

A recent survey was done and Petersburg business leaders were asked how COVID-19 has impacted their businesses. Responding employers have already laid off 6% of their total workforce due to the COVID-19 virus, and cancelled hiring an additional 113 workers. Local business revenue was down 53% in 2020 so far, compared to the same period in 2019. More than one-fifth (21%) of businesses say that they are at risk of closing permanently. A total of 45 businesses responded to this survey, which was directed by SE Conference.

As you can see our businesses are struggling and are in need of additional support. I am asking you to consider using some of the Care's Act Funding to support our local businesses, the backbone of our community.

There is no other place in the world quite like Little Norway and that, we are proud of. Please consider this letter as we continue to come together and make Petersburg strong and thriving during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We appreciate you and all you have done for our town, which does not go unseen. We look forward to hearing back from you.

Sincerely,

Mindy Lopez
Chamber Administrator