

Debra Thompson

From: Joseph Stratman <opsunj@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 10, 2021 3:10 PM
To: Assembly
Subject: Petersburg Borough Assembly Work Session 03-10-21 - written comment

Petersburg Borough Assembly Work Session
03-10-21

Dear Assembly,

My name is Joe Stratman and I'm submitting these written comments as a resident of Petersburg. When the landless bill was submitted to the last congress, I made my concerns known to the assembly on two separate occasions in regards to certain parcels being selected in the bill before congress. Even though there is no bill currently before congress, I would like to reiterate the concerns that I'd previously mentioned. My previous comments were not in opposition to the transfer of what was then 23,000 acres to private, corporate ownership, but rather my comments were specific to certain parcels. The two parcels I'm most concerned about are labeled as Parcel 309 - Mitkof Interior 4, and Parcel 311 - Wrangell Narrows South.

I've spent a lot of time in these two areas. The Wrangell Narrows South parcel is one of the few stretches of public beach on Kupreanof Island between Petersburg and Beecher Pass. Without a large boat or an all-terrain vehicle, I rely on publicly accessible beaches to hunt deer close to shore. The Mitkof Interior 4 parcel is in the Bear Creek watershed, the largest watershed on Mitkof Island with important fisheries resources, and old growth timber which provides wintering habitat for deer. While Bear Creek proper is not shown for reference on the maps, portions of this parcel appear to encompass both banks of Bear Creek. I would respectfully request the assembly to consider these two parcels as "parcels of concern" in future discussions if a similar bill is introduced to congress in the future. Instead of including these two parcels in future legislation, I'd suggest these two parcels be replaced by other parcels of similar acreage farther away from Petersburg with less value to local users. I feel these two parcels should remain public lands for all to use and enjoy. Thanks for the opportunity to submit these written comments to today's work session.

Sincerely,

Joe Stratman