

Debra Thompson

From: Richard Rinehart <richardjrinehart@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 10, 2021 4:22 PM
To: Assembly
Subject: Support for the Petersburg Alaska Natives Without Land aka Petersburg Landless

I am writing in support of the Petersburg Native community who have never fully enjoyed the benefits of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA). As you are aware the Alaska congressional delegation has proposed legislation in the last Congress and several times prior to that to provide land to the left out communities of Petersburg, Wrangell, Ketchikan, Haines and Tenakee Springs. We expect they will soon sponsor new legislation in this 117th Congress.

I ask for the City & Borough of Petersburg to support this legislation with a resolution from the Petersburg Assembly. Not only is the the right thing to do, in order to correct this long over due injustice, but it will benefit the entire community. Like all small towns I am sure Petersburg seeks ways to grow the tax base to provide long term benefits for it's residents. There is no better way than to put 23,040 acres into private ownership which will be subject to property taxes when developed. Business and economic development by a local corporation will also increase sales tax revenues. Not only will there be jobs from economic development but there will also be general and administrative jobs (accounting, HR, IT, management, etc) for local shareholders and non-shareholders too. Additionally the corporation will spend funds in the local economy purchasing goods and services from other local businesses. This will be a local owned and operated corporation benefiting the entire community of Petersburg.

Please listen to the representatives: Cecilia Tavoliero, Nicole Hallingstad and Brenda Louise when they speak tonight. I think you will see this is something you will be proud to support. Thank you and have a good meeting.

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