

## Debra Thompson

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**From:** Forest Sebastian <llamaprophecy@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 10, 2021 1:58 PM  
**To:** Assembly  
**Subject:** Comments For Tonight's Meeting

### SUBMITTED BY JOAN KAUTZER:

Petersburg Indian Association makes a positive contribution to the people of this borough. Their mission of promoting healthy lifestyles for all should be applauded. But do not confuse the good works of PIA with the landless legislation. Corporations are not beholden to communities, corporations are driven to make profits for a small group of shareholders. And once public land has been privatized it is then beyond public oversight.

Privatizing public lands is not a good idea or a sustainable policy. In the name of economic development native corporations have left ravaged landscapes in their wake throughout this region. Private lands are not held to the same stringent environmental standards as public lands, and this is why many Native Corporation clearcuts can be visible from space. As a result of this shoddy land management, wildlife, fisheries, subsistence, and tourism suffer. Even if the public is granted full access to these places, there is nothing worth accessing when the corporations are done. This is an indisputable track record.

Just because Sealaska announced that they are getting out of the round log export business today doesn't mean that they won't change their business strategy once thousands more acres with infrastructure are privatized with the passage of this legislation. The public will have no say as to how these new landless corporations generate profits, or who they partner with in order to do so.

Opening ANCSA for one more grab at public lands is a bad idea because it could unleash a never-ending cascade of claims. Individuals who feel they were somehow shorted by ANSCA should make their appeals to the Native Corporation by whom they were granted shares.

The survival of this region is directly tied to keeping as many acres of old growth forest intact as possible. The sustainability of everyone's lifestyle is linked to the forest. It would not be in the borough's interests to put large tracts of nearby public land in the hands of corporations.

Moreover, anyone on the council who is a potential beneficiary of this landless legislation should recuse themselves from a vote on the city's position relative to it, so as to avoid any conflict of interest. With no ironclad assurances for the borough's best interests written into this bill, it is imperative that the council oppose the backroom dealmaking that has gone into this legislation. Too much is at stake. Too much is unknown.

-Joan Kautzer