



November 28, 2018

Viking Cruise Lines

Dear _____,

The Petersburg Borough Assembly has concerns with larger cruise ships visiting our small community. At this point we don't feel we're ready to handle more than 250 tourists from ships in any given day. We currently lack the infrastructure necessary to handle larger numbers; for example, Petersburg is short on public restrooms and restaurants. We also fear there would be a shortage of available shore, air and water tour possibilities to handle over this number.

Petersburg is primarily a fishing town and is very busy during the summer months. With one main thoroughfare (Nordic Drive, or Main Street to longtime residents) to handle all traffic for moving freight, seafood, construction materials, etc., we are worried the traffic flow through town will be restricted with heavy foot traffic from ship passengers of this volume. Another concern is larger ships (Viking Cruise size and larger) that might visit Petersburg could lead to large tourism like what has happened in the rest of Southeast Alaska. We are not sure that Petersburg wants to be overflowing with people in the summers like Juneau, Ketchikan, Sitka and Skagway.

Thank you for expressing interest in our beautiful community. At this time we feel Petersburg needs to, as a community, decide what it's comfortable with as far as carrying capacity for tourism. It is our request that you refrain from booking any trips to Petersburg until the community determines what level of tourism we can handle without changing the character of our town.

Respectfully,

Mark Jensen
Mayor

Borough Administration

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