



November 6, 2018

Vicki Christiansen, Chief
U.S. Forest Service
1400 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20250-1111

Dear Chief Christiansen,

Recently a group of concerned citizens brought to the Petersburg Assembly's attention the 2016 Washington Office Activity Review of Timber Sale Administration, Sale Preparation, Stewardship Contracting, NEPA and Timber Theft Prevention, Region 10. That review identified numerous weaknesses related to internal forest management procedures needing attention. We understand that there also have been requests for follow-up investigations and that there may be an internal, on-going investigation.

The Tongass National Forest is the major land holder in the Petersburg Borough. The management of the Tongass National Forest is very important to the long-term viability and sustainability of our local economy. Therefore, the Borough strongly supports efforts to keep a consistent, sustainable forest management program. We would like to see the action items identified in the above-mentioned review corrected. If there is an internal review being done, we would urge that it be brought to a rapid conclusion so that the Tongass National Forest Staff can follow up and correct the deficiencies.

The Petersburg Borough would appreciate receiving any information related to follow-up actions by the Forest Service. We are hopeful that every effort is made to correct deficiencies so that we can move forward. The Petersburg Borough is willing to be a part of the solution and assist in any way we can.

Sincerely,

Mark Jensen
Mayor

cc. Beth Pendleton, Regional Forester, R-10
cc. Earl Stewart, Tongass National Forest Supervisor
cc. Dave Zimmerman, Petersburg District Ranger
cc. Rochelle Huddleston-Lorton, District Ranger, Thorne Bay District, R-10