

February 18, 2025

Dear Mr. Mayor, Mr. Manager and Members of the Assembly:

We thank all of you who were elected and truly care about this community. It is often a thankless job that takes up much of your time for little pay. I hope you will join us and do everything in your power to relay the concerns on our behalf to our Senators and Representative.

The strategy to flood the zone and implement Project 2025 has been efficient and chaotic to say the least. We are just beginning to feel the effects here locally. Many are not paying attention and believe the actions of Musk and DOGE are justified. Government agencies are audited and the size of government is actually down from fifty years ago. That's not to say there isn't room for improvement as is the case in every business. The termination of experienced and dedicated civil servants in every agency of our government is making us less safe and more vulnerable.

Elon Musk is an unelected and unaccountable government official wielding expansive executive power in violation of the U.S. Constitution. The illegal termination of our local Forest Service employees has been cruel and wrong. These hard working young people have bought homes, are raising families, and are established good citizens of Petersburg. Their lives have been turned upside down for no cause. 124 total USFS illegal firings so far in Alaska with 92 being in the Tongass. Round two is coming. Elon claims he is ridding government of Waste, Fraud and Abuse. All the while he receives 8 million dollars a day in Government Subsidies. The actions of Musk and his inexperienced DOGE team are doing extreme harm that will have long-term ramifications. All this awfulness so they can extend their 2017 tax cuts for the billionaires, raising the debt limit by almost 4.5 trillion dollars. Trickle-down economics has disproportionately favored the upper class and has not improved the lives of everyday Americans.

Cuts to NOAA will hurt fisheries and weather forecasting putting many at risk. Cutting USFS workforce will impact our fish streams, maintenance of roads, bridges, recreation areas, trails and cabins. Eliminating the Department of Education and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion will devastate so many lives of the most vulnerable among us who didn't ask to be disabled but rely on those

services. Every day I am thankful our daughter moved to Canada with our granddaughter born with dwarfism. She is beautiful and smart and deserves every chance in life!

Federal Infrastructure Projects already approved are now on hold. Cuts to Medicare, Medicaid, Head Start, school breakfast and lunches, funding for schools, and yes they are going after Social Security too. Voters wanted food and consumer prices to go down. Trump's Tariffs/Trade Wars will make prices go up and fish prices go down. All this will be devastating to our economy here in Petersburg, our State and around the world. Unfortunately there are some who will only realize this when they themselves are affected personally, and it will happen.

It is up to the Congress to be the checks and balances for our Democracy. The President is Not a King. We the People must say, this is not ACCEPTABLE. All three branches of government should be working together to FIX problems. We must fight against the Authoritarianism that is inching closer every day. This is not hyperbole.

As a community and country we will not give in or give up, we must pay attention and make our voices heard. We should be the greatest country in the world.

We appreciate all of you in helping us to save it. Please call and write Senator Murkowski, Senator Sullivan and Representative Begich often. They need encouragement to be on the Right Side of History and NOT bow down to all of this insanity.

Sincerely,

Karen Severson