

Susan Martinez
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907-772-2250
July 13, 2026
To: Petersburg Borough Assembly
Attn: Borough Clerk
12 South Nordic Drive (PO Box 329)
Petersburg, AK 99833

Subject: Formal Objection to Proposed Wide-Area Mill Rate Increase and Substantial Property Tax Burden for Tax Year [2026]

Dear Members of the [Assembly/Council/Board],

I am writing to formally object to the proposed property tax increase for the upcoming [2026] tax year. While I understand the financial requirements of the [Borough/Municipality], the combination of an increased mill rate and escalating property assessments has resulted in a substantial and unsustainable property tax burden on property owners within the wide-area taxing district.

I am registering my objection on the following grounds:

1. Excessive Financial Burden on Property Owners

The proposed increase in the mill rate, compounded by recent significant jumps in assessed property values, creates an unfair and excessive financial hardship. The total tax increase far outpaces inflation and average wage growth in our area. Property owners cannot continue to absorb such massive, year-over-year tax hikes without degrading their standard of living.

2. Lack of Justification for Wide-Area Mill Rate Increases

It is unclear how the revenue generated by this substantial mill rate increase will directly and proportionately benefit the taxpayers in the wide-area taxing district. I request that the [Assembly/Council] provide a detailed, line-item justification for why this expanded tax burden is necessary and demonstrate that all cost-cutting measures have been exhausted prior to raising taxes.

3. Request for Action

I urge the [Assembly/Council] to reconsider the proposed mill rate increase and instead adopt a revenue-neutral rate that offsets rising property values.

Alternatively, I ask that the assembly explore alternative revenue sources or budget cuts to relieve this tax pressure.

Thank you for your time, your service to our community, and your consideration of this urgent matter. I look forward to hearing how the assembly plans to address these concerns.

Sincerely,
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Subject: Formal Objection to Proposed Municipal Utility Rate Increases

Dear Mayor Lynn and Members of the Borough Assembly,

I am writing to formally register my objection and concerns to the recent municipal utility rate increases currently passed by the Borough Assembly. While I understand that maintaining and upgrading local infrastructure requires adequate funding, the compounding effect of these hikes, especially alongside recent property tax adjustments, presents a severe and unsustainable financial burden for local households and business owners.

I request that the Assembly reconsider these adjustments based on the following grounds:

1. Compounding Financial Hardship on Residents

Climbing utility costs hit families on fixed incomes, retirees, and local small businesses the hardest. When combined with other rising municipal costs, these increases directly diminish the affordability of living and operating in Petersburg.

2. Need for Stricter Fiscal Auditing and Cost Control

Before raising utility rates, the Borough must demonstrate that all potential internal cost-saving measures, operational efficiencies, and external grant funding opportunities have been fully exhausted. Rate increases should be a final resort, not an immediate fix for budget shortfalls.

3. Request for Transparent Long-Term Planning

I request that the Assembly provide a clear, accessible, and transparent breakdown detailing exactly how these new revenues will be isolated and spent. Taxpayers deserve concrete assurances that these funds will strictly support vital infrastructure improvements rather than general fund inflation.

Thank you for your dedication to our community and for taking the concerns of Petersburg's utility consumers into serious consideration.

Sincerely,
Susan Martinez