

## **Debra Thompson**

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**From:** Dennis <whales@aptalaska.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 10, 2025 4:46 PM  
**To:** Assembly  
**Subject:** Petersburg Town Hall Meeting - Future of Tourism

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Greeting Mayor Jensen,

I would like to submit a brief comment regarding the future of Petersburg's tourism. As you know Toni and I were in the visitor business for more than 20 years. I see an abundance other than potential for Petersburg to expand in the visitor business and further diversify our local economy, especially during these times of trial for the commercial seafood industry which is the backbone of our local economy . Focusing a directed effort to expand offering for visitors to make Petersburg a destination rather than a cruise ship stop. We encouraged our visitors to spend added time in Petersburg and found that many of our guests, which were primarily repeat clients loved Petersburg for what it is as a small authentic Alaska commercial fishing village.

Among a number of local features is Thomas Bay which is one of Petersburg's many incredible geological wonders and offers a host of potential to develop destination visitor opportunities. With the glacial rivers, existing road system and dramatic mainland landscapes that hold vast opportunities to develop world class hiking trail systems.

Going north along the coast are the incredible bays of Port Houghton, Hobart Bay, Windham Bay and Incredible Endicott Arm all part of Petersburg Borough with a diversity of potential for adventures offerings.

Petersburg should encourage and support development of local destination visitor business, along with partnerships with the US Forest Service.

I would be glad to offer more thoughts and all welcome calls. 907-518-0505

Sincerely,

Dennis Rogers