

From: Cindi Lagoudakis <trembladakis@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 5, 2026 3:29 PM
To: Assembly <assembly@petersburgak.gov>
Subject: Comments to the State for the PMC Certificate of Need

Dear Assembly Members,

If you have not already done so, I would encourage each of you to submit written comments to the State regarding the Certificate of Need for Petersburg Medical Center- the next step in being able to schedule the MRI for diagnostic tests for patients. We want to make sure we demonstrate broad community support. The MRI is currently installed in the WERC building and operational, and staff is trained in its use. Until the Certificate of Need is approved, however, the hospital must pay for additional utilities costs required to keep the equipment functioning, but may not recoup those expenses through patient scheduling.

Comments can be brief, and can be from either a personal perspective, or a broader look at the benefit to our community. One of the points made in testimony yesterday included the time, cost and hassle of traveling out of Petersburg for diagnostics. Speakers mentioned the challenges experienced with air travel due to various circumstances, or inability to travel when ferry schedules are interrupted.

Studies show that younger Southeast Alaska residents are feeling the strain of finding affordable housing and affordable services, including healthcare. Having a Certificate of Need that allows the MRI to be scheduled accomplishes several objectives: reduced costs for obtaining diagnostics locally, the potential for PMC to partner with other providers for imaging diagnostics and patient care, and a potential expansion of employment opportunity for those in health care professions.

It was also noted PMC has no direct competition for acute primary care, urgent care, emergency care and in-patient services. At the same time, there is a projected future increase in imaging and lab testing needs, especially as our community experiences an age shift to older residents.

Strokes, fall injuries, infections and more can be identified from MRI scans, which potentially can be life-saving when time is of the essence. This service can benefit our local population, patients from the surrounding area, and visitors to our community in need of emergency or ongoing care.

The address to email comments is doh.orr.con@alaska.gov. They must be received no later than February 9 (Monday) at 12 p.m. Thank you for taking the time to look this over, and I do hope you are able to send your own comments to the State.

Cindi Lagoudakis
Petersburg Hospital Board