

PETERSBURG BOROUGH
Resolution 2025-14

**A Resolution Opposing the Sale of Public Lands and Advocating
for Responsible Stewardship**

WHEREAS, the Petersburg Borough has serious concerns regarding Chairman Lee's provision that was in the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee's reconciliation proposal that mandated the sale of between 2 million and 3 million acres of public land in Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming;

WHEREAS, the bill called for the disposal of these lands with few restrictions and granted the Secretary of the Interior significant discretion to determine whether the sale of a given tract met "community needs";

WHEREAS, this would have set a dangerous precedent for fast-tracking sales of public lands, threatening Americans' access to public outdoor spaces;

WHEREAS, selling off public lands is irresponsible, short-sighted and irreversible, as these lands belong to all Americans, and once sold, they are gone for good, with fences going up, access disappearing, and the lands being lost to the public forever;

WHEREAS, this bill primarily benefited real estate developers and private-equity speculators rather than addressing real housing needs, and lacked requirements to ensure that any housing built in response to this bill was affordable or met affordable housing requirements;

WHEREAS, the Petersburg Borough has an established process for identifying and facilitating land sales to the public;

Therefore be it Resolved, that we urge lawmakers to consider alternative, transparent, and deliberative approaches to address the needs of local communities for affordable housing without compromising public lands; and the potential negative impacts on public access and conservation efforts.

PASSED and APPROVED by the Assembly of the Petersburg Borough, Alaska this 7th day of July, 2025.

Donna Marsh, Vice Mayor

ATTEST:

Rebecca Regula, Borough Clerk