

Debra Thompson

From: lynch1@gci.net
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 2:12 PM
To: Assembly
Subject: Item 16A on tonight's (10/16/2023) agenda, Petersburg Borough and Alaska Mental Health Trust Possible Land Exchange

Dear Assembly Members,
I would like to express my support for approval of Item 16A on tonight's (10/16/2023) agenda, Petersburg Borough and Alaska Mental Health Trust Possible Land Exchange

The parcel of land to be considered for a land trade should remain in public ownership in perpetuity. This area is literally a part of Petersburg's legacy. Virtually, or maybe even literally, everyone, residents or visitors, who has ever seriously fished at the Blind Slough rapids area has fished from that parcel of land or, at least knows what and where the "Big Rock" is. Some parcels of land are more valuable both economically and mentally, remaining as is, in the public trust, than if they were sold off to a private entity. This is exactly one of those parcels. Our community needs to consider the impacts of selling off parcels like this to the way of life we love about this town and the surrounding area. And remember, once it's gone, it's gone and it won't come back. There have relatively been some quite ugly incidents in other U.S. coastal communities concerning public access to beach front property. We don't want to see that here. In fact, leaving this parcel in public hands, could actually have more long-term pure economic value, that if it were sold off for residential or even commercial use.

Again, I urge you to support directing Manager Giesbrecht to contact the Alaska Mental Health Trust Land Office regarding a possible land exchange for the property in question.

Thank you for consideration of my request.

Sincerely,
Brian Lynch
228 Mitkof Highway