

[Date]

Patrick Carroll
Broadband Program Specialist
NTIA, OICG, U.S. Department of Commerce
Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program

Re: Support for No-Cost Extension Request for TBCP Award #NT23TBC0290020

Dear Patrick Carroll:

The Petersburg Borough supports the Central Council of the Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska's request for a no-cost extension of its Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program award. We understand that Tlingit & Haida is requesting an extension of the current period of performance from October 31, 2026, to October 31, 2028. This request seeks additional time, not additional federal funding, and we view that added time as a reasonable step to help ensure this important public investment can be completed as intended.

Reliable broadband infrastructure is important to Southeast Alaska communities, including local governments, residents, businesses, schools, health care providers, and public safety operations. Meaningful progress has already been made toward expanding broadband access, and significant time, effort, and resources have already been invested in planning, engineering, site development, and early implementation activities. The additional time would help ensure this work can continue in an orderly and effective manner.

The Petersburg Borough also recognizes the realities of deploying broadband infrastructure in rural and remote Alaska. Land acquisition, permitting, environmental and cultural review coordination, shipping constraints, workforce shortages, inflation, and a limited construction season all affect project delivery in ways that are difficult to predict and impossible to avoid entirely.

Approval of this no-cost extension will allow Tlingit & Haida to continue building out committed infrastructure, advance FCC spectrum buildout obligations, and extend long-term connectivity benefits to communities in Southeast Alaska. For these reasons, the Petersburg Borough respectfully supports this request and encourages NTIA to approve the no-cost extension.

Sincerely,

Petersburg Borough