



March 4, 2024

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Denali Commission  
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RE: Letter of Support for Southeast Alaska Solid Waste Authority (SEASWA) for Regional Solid Waste Management Planning for Rural Communities via the Denali Commission

Dear Denali Commission Selection Committee,

The Petersburg Borough Assembly is writing to express its support for the SEASWA's application for the regional solid waste management planning grant being offered by the Denali Commission.

Like many other communities in Southeast Alaska, Petersburg is struggling to cope with the ever-increasing costs of solid waste disposal. In the last year Petersburg's cost to ship and dispose of municipal solid waste has increased approximately 35%. This is going to require raising collection rates, thereby passing those costs along to the ratepayers. With many other costs of living on the rise as well, Petersburg is looking for ways to lower or at least stabilize the costs associated with waste disposal in order to reduce financial stress on local residents and businesses.

As a longstanding member community of the SEASWA, Petersburg Borough recognizes the importance of regional collaboration and planning on solid waste disposal issues. Individually, Petersburg – like many Southeast Alaska communities – has very limited resources to commit toward finding solutions to this problem. A coordinated study and planning effort by Southeast Alaska communities via the SEASWA will ensure that all viable options for solid waste disposal are evaluated to determine the best future solution or solutions for communities in the region.

For the reasons outlined above, we strongly support SEASWA's application to Denali Commission for regional solid waste management planning funds.

Sincerely,

Mayor Mark Jensen and Members of the Petersburg Borough Assembly

Cc: Chris Cotta, Chair, SEASWA