



August 10, 2021

Senator Lisa Murkowski
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

(via email to Chere Klein at
Chere_Klein@murkowski.senate.gov)

Dear Senator Murkowski,

The Petersburg Borough Assembly is very appreciative of your inclusion of the Petersburg Medical Center in the FY2022 congressionally directed spending items request.

In May of this year the Petersburg Borough Assembly passed a Resolution in support of the Petersburg Medical Center's efforts for a new hospital. The Borough also provided 1 of 3 sites for consideration. The funding from the bill allows for the necessary geotechnical work so that a specific site can be selected, and the selected site will then be designated by the Borough to Petersburg Medical Center for the new hospital.

A Master Plan completed in 2020 identified safety concerns with structural deficiencies and aged equipment and determined that the current facility can no longer be remodeled to accommodate the necessary upgrades. The facility therefore is obsolete and in need of replacement. The cost of a new facility far exceeds the Borough's ability to finance or bond for the project, making it imperative that the project be completed in phases as external sources of funding are available. The Hospital Board recognized these constraints and has been engaging the local public throughout the planning process. The Assembly supports the Hospital Board and CEO in the planning for the new facility and efforts to seek external sources of funding.

Knowing that we stand stronger as a community in our efforts for our quality of health care, we are committed to supporting the Hospital Board, CEO and staff at Petersburg Medical Center as they move forward in the work required for the replacement of the community's hospital building.

Thank you again for your support of our community hospital. We see this as one of our highest community priorities in the coming years. We recognize the value of quality health care that our hospital and clinic have been providing and want to see it maintained and improved.

Your efforts on our community's behalf are recognized and strongly supported.

Respectfully,

Mark Jensen
Mayor