



# City and Borough of Sitka

100 Lincoln Street • Sitka, Alaska 99835

*Coast Guard City, USA*

April 11, 2017

The Honorable Bert Stedman  
Alaska State Senate  
By email

Dear Senator Stedman,

The Sitka Pioneer Home is vital to the residents of Sitka. The Sitka Pioneer Home is the only assisted living facility in our community. It provides three different levels of care including independent, basic assistance and 24-hour care for persons with Alzheimer's disease, related disorders and comprehensive services. The Home has the capacity to provide services for 75 individuals and employs 105 people (as of 2015). A foundation of our community since 1913, the Pioneer Home allows Sitkans and many others to stay in their hometown as they age, promoting positive relationships, meaningful activities and physical, emotional and spiritual growth. It is our responsibility to care for our Alaska pioneers.

The Senate's FY18 operating budget has listed cuts across the board. While we understand the hard decisions legislators have to make, we strongly oppose this drastic cut in funding to the Alaska Pioneer Homes. Our understanding is that a multi-year allocation summary by the Legislative Finance Division shows approximately a 12.5 percent reduction in the Pioneer Home program from FY17 to the Senate's current proposal for the FY18 operating budget. A reduction of that magnitude would be highly detrimental for the Pioneer Home in Sitka. We urge you to undertake every effort to keep Pioneer Home funding at its current level.

Sincerely,

Mark Gorman  
Municipal Administrator