

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 13, 2010

Honorable Daniel Inouye  
Chairman  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Defense  
S-128, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Honorable Thad Cochran  
Ranking Member  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Defense  
S-128, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Inouye and Senator Cochran,

As you deliberate Fiscal Year 2011 appropriations, I respectfully request your support for the following programs:

*Included in S.3800, the Department of Defense Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2011  
(Senate Report 111-295)*

- Alaska National Guard Counter-Drug Program - \$3M - Statewide, AK
- Entrance Road Resurfacing (Gaffney Road) - \$1.2M - Fort Wainwright, AK
- Alaska Land Mobile Radio System - \$1M - Elmendorf AFB, Joint Task Force AK
- Alaska NORAD Region Communication Upgrades & Repairs - \$500,000 - Elmendorf AFB, 611<sup>th</sup> Air Support Group
- Upgrade Readiness Training Center Main Area - \$1.7M - Eielson Air Force Base, AK
- Future Tactical Truck Composite Shelter - \$2M - Alkan Shelters, Fairbanks, AK
- PermaFrost Tunnel - \$1M - USACE, Fox, AK
- Alaska Industrial Supercritical Water - \$1M - General Dynamics, North Pole, AK
- SpringBoard Technology Transfer - \$2M - Juneau Economic Development council, Juneau, AK

I further express my support for funding for the F136 Joint Strike Fighter Alternate Engine program, or in the case of a continuing resolution, providing the Office of Management and Budget direction to ensure continuation of funding for this program.

*Included in S. 3677, Financial Services Appropriations Act, 2011 (Senate Report 111-238)*

- Anchorage Community Land Trust for a financial literacy and community development program - \$200,000 - Anchorage, AK

*Included in S.3615, the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2011(Senate Report 111-226)*

- Add to and Alter Communications Facility - \$6.5M - Air National Guard, Eielson Air Force Base, AK
- DOD Joint Regional Fire Training Facility - \$6.6M - Elmendorf Air Force Base, AK
- Planning and Design a Physical Fitness Center - \$2.7M - Fort Richardson, AK

*Included in S.3644, the Transportation and House and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill for Fiscal Year 2011 (Senate Report 111-230)*

- Denali Commission Transportation Program - \$1.8M - Statewide, AK
- Barge Ramp and Loading Facility - \$300,000 - City of Coffman Cove, AK
- Relocate Crisis Center - \$500,000 - Covenant House Alaska, Anchorage, AK
- Sterling Highway/Birch Street Traffic Signal - \$400,000 - City of Soldotna, AK
- Construct Multi Use Health Facility - \$500,000 - Copper River Native Association, AK
- Construct Early Childhood Development Program - \$500,000 - Rural Alaska CAP, Toksook Bay, AK

An important part of respecting the government to government relationship with tribes across the country is providing the support needed for the many self determination programs they operate. The first program is included under the Transportation and Housing and Urban Development Appropriations bill. The Indian Housing Block Grant (IHBG) created by the Native American Housing Assistance and Self Determination Act provides housing authorities across the country the ability to provide secure and safe housing for Native Americans and Alaska Natives. Please consider funding IHBG at the FY 2010 level, \$700 million.

Self compacting tribes across the country depend on Contract Support Costs to run the programs they took over from the federal government. These costs support tribes and organizations in over 35 states to operate \$2.3 billion in various programs. Though the President's proposed budget took a giant step forward to full the current shortfall, more needs to be done. I respectfully request your consideration to fully fund these obligations. The current short fall in Indian Health Service stands at \$120 million after the President's budget and the short fall for the Bureau of Indian Affairs is \$45 million.

*Included in S.3636, Department of Commerce and Justice, and Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill for Fiscal Year 2011(Senate Report 111-229)*

- Domestic Violence Prevention Project - \$350,000 - Municipality of Anchorage, AK
- Sexual Assault Forensic Nursing Services - \$400,000 - Municipality of Anchorage, AK
- Marine mammal co-management programs - \$500,000 - Alaska Native Organizations, Statewide, AK
- Seal and Steller Sea Lion Biological Research - \$500,000 - State of Alaska
- Magnuson-Stevens: Marine Education and Training - \$1M - University of Alaska, Alaska and Pacific Islands
- Ocean Acidification Research Center for Alaska - \$200,000 - University of Alaska, Fairbanks, AK

I also, respectfully request you fund NOAA's Joint Polar Satellite System at a level of \$528M. Funding at lower levels would mean launch delays resulting in potential coverage gaps by weather and search-and-rescue satellites which cover the entire U.S., and which are the only ones that cover Alaska. The outcome would be a gravely degraded ability to forecast severe weather nationwide, from hurricanes to tornadoes to Bering Sea storms, and to detect signals from emergency beacons, both of which would mean unnecessary losses of life and property. I further request that maintaining funding for the satellites not come at the expense of the Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Fund, another program important to Alaska and the Pacific Northwest.

*Included in S.3686, Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2011 (Senate Report 111-243)*

- Reach Out and Read - \$6M - Nationwide
- Education exchanges with historic whaling communities in Alaska, Hawaii and Massachusetts - \$8.754 M – AK, HI, MA
- Medical Center Equipment - \$1M - Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, Statewide, AK
- Oral Health Disparities Project - \$250,000 - Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, Statewide, AK
- Replace Community Health Center - \$500,000 - Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center, Anchorage, AK
- Serve low-income uninsured Alaskans with donated health care - \$200,000 - Anchorage Project Access, Anchorage, AK

- Suicide Prevention Strategy for the Northwest Arctic - \$200,000 - Maniilaq Association, communities across the northwest Alaska region
- Complete Construction of Maniilaq Elder Care Addition - \$1.5M - Maniilaq Association, Kotzebue, AK
- Prepare Alaskans for employment and entry into vocational training - \$200,000 - Nine Star Education and Employment, Statewide, AK
- Expand workforce development programming - \$100,000 - The Southwest Alaska Vocational and Education Center, southwest Alaska region

*Included in S.3635, Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2011(Senate Report 111-228)*

- Sitka Blue Lake Hydroelectric Expansion Project - \$1M - City and Borough of Sitka, AK
- Stabilize River Bank, Phase 2 - \$3M - City of Bethel, AK
- Army Corps dredging of entrance to St. Paul Harbor - \$750,000 - City of Kodiak, AK
- To dredge Petersburg's North Harbor to originally authorized depth - \$500,000 - City of Petersburg, AK
- Valdez Small Boat Expansion Project - \$500,000 - City of Valdez, AK
- Research and Develop Geothermal Energy in the Fairbanks North Star Borough - \$700,000 - Fairbanks North Star Borough, AK
- Cold Climate Center - \$500,000 - University of Alaska, Fairbanks, AK

Regretfully, the Interior and Environment Appropriations subcommittee did not complete a markup of the departmental budgets under their purview for FY2011. While all the projects I submitted for your consideration in March of this year are worthy of funding, I have abbreviated that list here:

- Replace wood stoves in the borough- \$500,000 – Fairbanks North Star Borough, AK
- Secondary water treatment facility construction - \$750,000 – City of Kodiak, AK
- Sewer treatment plant improvements - \$800,000 – Municipality of Skagway, AK
- Construct Yuut Elitnaurviat dormitory - \$1M – Yuut Elitnaurviat, LLC.
- USFS Sitka ranger station - \$6.5M – USFS, Alaska Region
- Water systems improvements - \$4.2 M – City of Dillingham, AK

The President's budget also targeted two items of broad importance to Alaska. The FY2011 budget reduces the Bureau of Land Management's Alaska land conveyance process from \$34 million to \$21 million. This would dramatically slow the award of lands owed for

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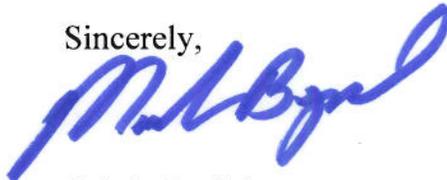
roughly 50 years to the State of Alaska and for nearly 40 years to Alaska Natives across the state. The USDA Forest Service's Alaska Region subsistence budget is also cut in half to \$2.5 million, endangering adequate management for these important cultural and nutritional resources for many rural Alaskans. Please consider funding the BLM Alaska land conveyance program at the FY2010 level of \$34 million and the Forest Service's Alaska Region subsistence management budget at the FY2009 level of \$5 million.

Additionally, I request your consideration of including the legislative provisions outlined below in a final omnibus appropriations bill. These provisions are at no cost to the federal government.

- Legislative provision authorizing a land conveyance to the city of Whittier, Alaska. The Department of Interior and Department of Defense concur with the legislation which requires the city to pay fair market value for the property thereby eliminating any cost to the federal government. (bill language attached)
- Section 8108, *Department of Defense Supercomputing Resource Center*, of S.3800, the Department of Defense Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2011. Legislative provision prohibiting the use of funds for the consolidation or realignment of any Department of Defense supercomputing resource center. This provision ensures Congress will have oversight of proposed changes to management of super computing resources by the Department of Defense, including the center in Fairbanks, Alaska.
- Section 313, *FAA Personnel Management System*, of H.R. 1586, Federal Aviation Administration Reauthorization. This section contains collective bargaining and dispute resolution language relating to air traffic controllers and certain other FAA employees. It is considered non-controversial, and the underlying FAA legislation containing this language passed the Senate 93-0 but has since stalled in conference negotiations with the House.

Thank you for your consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact me at (202) 224-3004 should you have questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Mark Begich  
United States Senator