

March 22, 2012

The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye  
Chairman  
Senate Appropriations Committee  
S-131, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran  
Vice Chairman  
Senate Appropriations Committee  
S-131, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein  
Chairman  
Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy  
and Water Development  
Senate Dirksen Office Building, Room 186  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Lamar Alexander  
Ranking Member  
Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy  
and Water Development  
Senate Dirksen Office Building, Room 186  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Inouye, Vice Chairman Cochran, Chairman Feinstein, and Ranking Member Alexander:

As the Committee begins its consideration of the Fiscal Year 2013 Energy and Water Development Appropriations Bill, I request support for the following programs:

**Agency, Account:** Corps of Engineers – Civil Works, Operations and Maintenance

**President's Budget Request for FY 13:** \$2,398,000,000

**Amount Requested:** +\$30,000,000 above the President's Budget

**Description:** I support the items included within the President's budget for the State of Alaska, but I am concerned the budget request does not adequately address the funding needs of our smaller ports. These ports are the lifeline for many local communities, but because they do not move significant tonnage, they do not compete well in the Administration's budget. In the FY12 Consolidated Appropriations bill, Congress added an additional \$30 million in funding for Small, Remote, and Subsistence Harbors, noting the Administration's request did not allow these harbors to properly compete for scarce navigation funding. To address this issue, I urge you to include this funding in addition to the budget request to address the maintenance needs of small ports and harbors.

**Program Title:** Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs (OIEPP)

**President's Budget Request:** \$2,000,000

**Requested Amount:** +\$3,000,000 above the President's Budget

**Agency, Account:** Department of Energy, Indian Energy Policy

**Description:** Maintaining funding at FY 11 levels to ensure the Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs is able to direct, foster, coordinate and implement energy planning, education, management to assist tribes with energy development as intended. This program serves to address the most significant tribal energy needs that might not be supported by other federal programs.

**Program Title:** Denali Commission

**President's Budget Request:** \$10,165,000

**Amount Requested:** +\$10,000,000 above the President's request.

**Agency, Account:** Denali Commission

**Description:** I support the funding included for the Denali Commission within the President's budget, but I am concerned the budget request does not adequately address the infrastructure and economic development needs of Alaska. I request this additional funding in order to aid infrastructure development and other economic development services in rural areas of Alaska.

**Program Title:** Fossil Energy Programs

**Amount Requested:** Support President's Budget, \$17,000,000.

**Agency, Account:** Department of Energy, National Energy Technology Laboratory, Fossil Energy Programs, Natural Gas Technology

**Description:** To research gas hydrate in the Arctic environment in commercially viable gas fields, particularly of free gas accumulations beneath hydrate accumulations; to understand the behavior of hydrates and associated fluids undergoing hydrate disassociation by conducting a long term production test from the underlying free gas; and to test the potential of producing gas hydrates through depressurization, including costs for drilling.

Senators Inouye, Cochran, Feinstein, and Alexander

March 22, 2012

Page 3

**Program Title:** Office of the Federal Coordinator for Alaska Natural Gas Transportation Projects

**Amount Requested:** Support President's Budget, \$3,084,200.

**Agency, Account:** Office of the Federal Coordinator for Alaska Natural Gas Transportation Projects

**Description:** Established as an independent agency in the Executive Branch pursuant to the Alaska Natural Gas Pipeline Act of 2004, the Office of the Federal Coordinator serves to coordinate federal activities for an Alaska natural gas transportation project that could deliver significant natural gas supply to the U.S. lower states.

If you have any questions, please contact Cory Turner of my staff at (202) 224-7309.

Sincerely,



Mark Begich  
United States Senator