

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 26, 2010

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 Byron L. Dorgan  
Chairman  
Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy  
and Water Development  
Senate Dirksen Office Building, Room 186  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Robert F. Bennett  
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 Dorgan, and Ranking Member Bennett:

As the Committee begins its consideration of the Fiscal Year 2011 Energy and Water Development Appropriations Bill, I request support for the following projects:

Army Corps dredging of entrance to St. Paul Harbor in Kodiak, AK

Recipient: City of Kodiak

Location: Kodiak, Alaska

Amount Requested: \$1,500,000

- The project is consistent with the goals of the Water Resources Development Act to promote safe navigation, water-borne transportation and interstate commerce. It will also further access to Federally-managed fisheries by local and visiting fishing vessels.

Wind Diesel Testbed

Recipient: University of Alaska, Fairbanks

Location: Fairbanks, Alaska

Amount Requested: \$1,000,000

- Rural Alaska has the highest energy costs in the nation, with electric costs as high as \$1 per kil/hour. This project has the potential to dramatically reduce energy costs by investigating options for operating in a diesel-off mode. The research needs to be done in simulated conditions in order not to disrupt a community's power. There is national interest in developing the means to reduce fossil energy use and shifting to renewable energy, such as wind, as a power source.

To dredge Petersburg's North Harbor to its originally authorized depth

Recipient: City of Petersburg

Location: Petersburg, Alaska

Amount Requested: \$1,500,000

- Dredging navigation channels and removing barriers to navigation which impede interstate commerce is a federal responsibility. The Petersburg North Harbor was originally dredged by the Army Corps of Engineers. The community has been waiting years for the Corps to restore the navigation channel. A locally funded harbor project is stalled pending dredging.

Study flood control alternatives at Lowell Creek Tunnel

Recipient: City of Seward

Location: Seward, Alaska

Amount Requested: \$2,000,000

- A significant blockage caused by the collapse or obstruction of the tunnel structure during another major flood would create a floodway threatening many residences and the Seward Hospital.

Research and Develop Geothermal Energy

Recipient: Fairbanks North Star Borough

Location: Fairbanks North Star Borough, Alaska

Amount Requested: \$1,000,000

- As a result of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) listing portions of the Fairbanks North Star Borough as in non-attainment for PM 2.5 emissions, the State of Alaska, the Borough, the EPA, and federal-stakeholder agencies such as the Department of Energy are collaborating to identify sources of PM 2.5 emissions, minimize those emissions, and ensure attainment. As part of these efforts, the Borough is conducting research into developing geothermal energy production on a large scale—local developers have already developed these resources on a small scale. If the Borough can develop geothermal energy production, Borough residents are expected to see reductions in PM 2.5 emissions and home heating costs.

To examine erosion control options to protect the coastal village of Nelson Lagoon in the Aleutian Islands

Recipient: Aleutians East Borough

Location: Nelson Lagoon

Amount Requested: \$100,000

- The Corps has performed a Preliminary Action Plan (“PAP”) which has identified a number of potential solutions to the problem. The PAP recommends, as the next step, the conduct of an investigation to plan, design, and permit for a shoreline protection project. The proposed report language clarifies that the project is subject to the terms of Section 116 of the Energy & Water Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2010, allowing the Corps to carry out structural and non-structural projects for storm damage prevention and reduction, coastal erosion, and ice and glacial damage in Alaska. The non-federal cost share under Section 116 is up to 35% of the total cost of the project. The project, along with the imprimatur for the PAP analysis, was authorized in Section 1007(1) of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007.

Improving Sustainability through Testing and Applying Appropriate Technologies

Recipient: Cold Climate Housing Research Center

Location: Fairbanks/ Statewide, Alaska

Amount Requested: \$428,000

- Ensuring the success of CCHRC’s Product Testing Laboratory will be an investment towards reducing cost, improving durability and increasing comfort of housing in Alaska and other cold climate regions of the U.S. Much of the research and testing conducted over the past several decades specific to cold climate housing has been in Canada. While Alaska and other cold regions of the U.S. have benefitted from this work, with additional funding we can ensure U.S. homeowners gain from developing a homegrown research and testing capacity for addressing the issues specific to our interests.

Sitka Blue Lake Hydroelectric Expansion Project

Recipient: City and Borough of Sitka

Location: Sitka, Alaska

Amount Requested: \$12,500,000

- When the Alaska Pulp Corporation, Sitka’s largest employer, closed, Sitka was forced to offset the loss of the standby power generation from the company. This additional hydropower will be needed by institutions of statewide and Federal importance: Sitka Airport, the U.S. Coast Guard Air Station serving Southeast Alaska, Mt. Edgecumbe Statewide Boarding School, Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium and Hospital and Sitka’s seafood processing plants and other “economic engines.” Sitka’s electric utility is owned and operated by City and Borough of Sitka independent from any other power grid. Therefore, the expansion of the

Sitka's electrical generation capabilities, which are nearing maximum capacity, is essential.

Akutan Harbor Service Facilities

Recipient: City of Akutan

Location: Akutan, Alaska

Amount Requested: \$2,400,000

- An operational harbor facility will provide local jobs, support the Bering Sea fishing industry, enhance public safety and stimulate regional economic development. The harbor and the airport will allow Akutan to serve as a regional safe harbor and deployment base during response to maritime disasters and incidents. New business opportunities will be generated in areas such as port maintenance and repair, electrical and radio service, fueling facilities, gear storage, lodging, and food service. These businesses will provide jobs and technical skills training for local, Native and Tribal residents of Akutan and the Aleutians East region.

To construct a boat harbor in Unalaska, AK

Recipient: City of Unalaska

Location: Unalaska, Alaska

Amount Requested: \$12,000,000

- Thirty people statewide will take jobs as a result of this initiative and twenty will upgrade their skills sufficiently to qualify for a vocational training or apprenticeship program.

Stabilize River Bank, Phase 2

Recipient: City of Bethel

Location: Bethel, Alaska

Amount Requested: \$3,000,000

- Completion of the River Bank Stabilization Project Extension will improve the safety of the seawall, the safety of port operations on and near this section of seawall, and the safety of tug and barge operators who use the seawall for moorage. The funds will be used by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to hire a contractor to complete the project. The contractor will order materials, arrange for the use of heavy equipment, hire personnel as needed, and perform the tasks required.

Valdez Small Boat Expansion Project

Recipient: City of Valdez

Location: Valdez, Alaska

Amount Requested: \$1,300,000

- Deficiencies include over capacity for all users, poor water circulation, narrow channels, limited operations for large vessels, and inadequate launching capability. Over congestion on limited fairways leads to hazards to navigation for all users. Expanding the harbor would prove beneficial, not only for recreational and commercial uses, but Emergency Services, Coast Guard, State Troopers and oil response vessels as well. This project is essential, as Valdez is the closest salt water port to Fairbanks and therefore serves as a regional harbor for all of Interior Alaska. It is also the primary marine support facility protecting the national interest associated with the terminus of the Trans-Alaska Oil Pipeline in Port Valdez.

Cold Climate Center

Recipient: University of Alaska, Fairbanks

Location: Fairbanks, Alaska

Amount Requested: \$500,000

- Alaska is arguably first among the state to experience rapid and intense levels of change. Impacts of this change include deteriorating permafrost, sea ice retreat, coastal erosion, loss of infrastructure, extremes in floods, drought and wildfire, northward migration of pathogens, stress on wildlife including wildlife food sources. At the same time, change has the positive aspects of increased marine access and new opportunities for resource development.

I certify neither my immediate family nor I have a pecuniary interest in any of the congressionally directed spending item(s) that I have requested, consistent with the requirements of paragraph 9 of Rule XLIV of the Standing Rules of the Senate. I further certify I have posted a description of the items requested on my official website, along with the accompanying justification.

If you have any questions, please contact Liz Brinkerhoff-Nottberg of my staff at (202) 224-3004.

Sincerely,



Mark Begich  
United States Senator