

MARK BEGICH
ALASKA

SUITE SH-825
HART BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510
(202) 224-3004

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
COMMITTEE ON
COMMERCE, SCIENCE AND TRANSPORTATION
COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 8, 2009

Senator Daniel K. Inouye
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
522 Hart Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Thad Cochran
Vice Chair
Committee on Appropriations
113 Dirksen Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Dianne Feinstein
Chair
Subcommittee on Interior,
Environment, and Related
Agencies
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Lamar Alexander
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Interior,
Environment, and Related
Agencies
455 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Inouye, Cochran, Feinstein, and Alexander,

Please accept this application for appropriations in the Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies for the following projects:

**Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission; Barrow, Alaska
Commission Oil and Gas Mitigation Work
\$300,000**

To support annual negotiation of conflict avoidance agreements between the whalers and companies conducting oil and gas development activities to ensure there are no unmitigable adverse impacts on the availability of bowhead whales and other marine mammals that are used as subsistence resources by villages along the Chukchi Sea and Beaufort Sea coasts of Alaska.

**Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation; Dutch Harbor, Alaska; Unalaska, Alaska;
Anchorage, Alaska; Seattle, Washington
Reduction of Salmon Bycatch through Testing of Salmon Excluder Technology
\$156,000**

Will provide funding to conduct extensive at-sea tests of salmon excluder flapper panels scaled for use by catcher-processors operating in the Bering Sea pollock fishery.

**Alaska Forest Association; Ketchikan, Alaska
Tongass Timber Pipeline/Ten Year Sale Prep
\$4,250,000**

Funding for the Forest Service to prepare several ten-year timber sales in order to restore the timber pipeline in Region 10 and to provide sufficient assured timber supply to allow investors to borrow money for building and upgrading manufacturing facilities and for purchasing logging and road construction equipment.

**Alaska Native Heritage Center; Anchorage, Alaska
Village Sites Completion (Water/Sewer)
\$305,160**

Utilities (water and sewer) for the year-round Athabascan Ceremonial House-Gathering.

**Alaska Soil And Water Conservation District; Ketchikan, Alaska
Southeast Alaska Forest Stewardship Program
\$500,000**

A Forest Stewardship project on private forest lands in Southeast Alaska, with initial work to occur on the 22,757 acres of private Native lands owned by Cape Fox Corp., a cooperative with the Alaska Soil & Water Conservation District.

**City of Aleknagik; Aleknagik, Alaska
Scattered Projects Water and Sewer
\$2,120,132**

Construction of a new deep-bury water system, wells and on-site wastewater disposal, and a small-diameter pressure sewer system with a percolation cell.

Association Of Village Council Presidents; Akiak, Alaska
Sewer and Water – Forced Water Mains
\$1,945,000

Installation of water and sewer mains and laterals to homes.

Chugach Regional Resources Commission; Chugach, Alaska
Chugach Regional Resources Commission
\$500,000

Funding to address issues of concern regarding stewardship of Alaska's natural resources, subsistence, the environment, and to develop culturally appropriate economic projects that promote the sustainable development of the natural resources.

Cooperative Extension Service University of Alaska; Alaska Statewide
Alaska Invasive Species Council
\$127,000

To establish an Alaska invasive species council to act in an advisory capacity to coordinate the statewide efforts that prevents both the arrival and spread of invasive species.

Denali Commission
Economic Development Program
\$1,000,000

Department of Interior funds would be used for Economic Development program for either the statewide mini-grant program, or the Alaska Marketplace.

Denali Commission
Construction of Bulk Fuel Facility
3,000,000

Environmental Protection Agency funds would be used for construction of a bulk fuel facility upgrade(s) in a community that has been previously identified on the universe of needs list for future projects.

City of Dillingham; Dillingham, Alaska
Dillingham New Water Source
\$4,570,000

The project completes the first stage in a comprehensive plan to extend the city's water and sewer system.

Fairbanks North Star Borough; Fairbanks North Star Borough, Alaska
Fairbanks Air Quality Studies
\$2,600,000

Funds to assist the Fairbanks North Star Borough improve its environmental conditions, particularly air quality.

Friends Of The Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge; Anchorage, Alaska
Kincaid Vehicle Cleanup
\$140,000

Cleanup an old vehicle dump at Kincaid Municipal Park.

Friends Of the Jesse Lee Home; Seward, Alaska
Jesse Lee Leadership Residential Charter School
\$1,600,000

Residential charter leadership school for high-school youth.

City of Hoonah; Hoonah, Alaska
Raw Water Transmission Line
\$1,000,000

This project will completely upgrade and replace a 29,000 foot water transmission line constructed in 1985.

Kenai Peninsula Borough; Kenai Peninsula Borough, Alaska
Spruce Bark Beetle Infestation
\$2,000,000

Restore urban interface, remove hazard trees, and continue to identify and implement fire hazard and forest health management and to construct emergency response facilities and update emergency response equipment.

Kenai Peninsula Borough; Kenai Peninsula Borough, Alaska
Kenai River Center Expansion
\$2,373,000

The current facility prohibits growth, a facility expansion will ensure the public will have one location where local, State and Federal agencies will work cooperatively to protect valuable habitat for fish and wildlife.

Kincaid Group; Anchorage, Alaska
Community Recreational Enhancements
\$750,000

Project includes installation of snowmaking equipment for a premiere Nordic venue, an irrigation system and the final materials installation for multi-purpose fields.

Kodiak Area Native Association; Kodiak, Alaska
Construction of Community Development Center
\$2,000,000

To construct a 13,000 square foot, two-story building in Kodiak which will be used to provide social services to Alaskan Natives and American Indians.

Morris Thompson Cultural And Visitors Center; Fairbanks, Alaska
Cultural and Visitors Center Exhibit
\$1,370,000

A final appropriation of \$1.37M will allow the project partners to complete 9,000 square feet of high-quality, well-researched, and authentic exhibits which will be the showcase of the facility.

Nature Conservancy; Matanuska-Susitna Basin, Alaska
Fish Passage Restoration in the Mat-Su Basin
\$1,000,000

This proposed project will replace 7 culverts that block fish passage in the Wasilla Creek and Little Susitna River watersheds.

Northwest Arctic Borough; Buckland, Alaska
Buckland Water and Sewer Project
\$1,000,000

To finish a piped water and sewer project in Buckland City.

City of Saint Paul; Saint Paul, Alaska
Repair Failed Outfall
\$1,400,000

Replace/repair failed outfall.

City and Borough of Sitka; Sitka, Alaska
Japonski Island Infrastructure Completion
\$500,000

To upgrade the deteriorating road and utility infrastructure on Japonski Island, some of which dates from World War II when the island was a Federal military base.

City of Soldotna; Soldotna, Alaska
Water/Sewer System Improvements
\$1,293,900

The water system improvements anticipated include modification of the existing well and well house, piping and equipment improvements, installation of an on-site chlorine generator, building improvements, SCADA system upgrade, and other water improvements.

Kenai Peninsula Borough; Kenai Peninsula Borough, Alaska
Nikiski North Star Elementary School Arsenic Removal
\$110,000

The water at Nikiski North Star Elementary contains Arsenic V and is treatable via a point of entry system which has approval and plans to be installed pending funding.

City of Kodiak; Kodiak, Alaska
Water Treatment Facility
\$1,000,000

To install a secondary source of treatment for the water drinking system using UV disinfection, as per the Federal Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule.

City of North Pole; North Pole, Alaska
Waste Water Treatment Plant Engineering Study and Design
\$275,000

The City needs professional analysis of the waste water treatment plant to plan for renovation or replacement of the facility and to design a modernized treatment system.

City of North Pole; North Pole, Alaska
Waste Water Treatment Plant Sludge Removal
\$275,000

The wastewater treatment lagoons periodically require the utility to remove the accumulated sludge to ensure the effective and efficient operation of the lagoons. The utility plans to use a contractor to remove the sludge

City of Palmer; Palmer, Alaska
Waste Water Treatment Plant Improvements
\$5,000,000

Project will provide upgrades thought out the wastewater treatment plant and purchase properties adjacent to plant's current location to create a subsurface drainage system to comply with the current EPA regulations.

City of Skagway; Skagway, Alaska

Retrofit of the Sewer Treatment Plant (STP) facility with installation of membrane bioreactor system.

\$1,000,000

Retrofit of the Sewer Treatment Plant (STP) facility with installation of membrane bioreactor system.

City of Wasilla; Wasilla, Alaska

Sewer Treatment Plant Improvements

\$1,000,000

This project will provide additional treatment to meet water quality standards by upgrading the aerated lagoons to reduce ammonia and nitrate levels at the City's sewage treatment plant.

Alaska Forest Association; Ketchikan, Alaska
Red Cedar Amendment
(Language Only)

Please include the following bill language in the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010:

SEC. xxx No timber sale in Region 10 shall be advertised if the indicated rate is deficit when appraised using a residual value approach that assigns domestic Alaska values for western redcedar. Program accomplishments shall be based on volume sold. Should Region 10 sell, in the current fiscal year, the annual average portion of the decadal allowable sale quantity called for in the current Tongass Land Management Plan in sales which are not deficit when appraised using a residual value approach that assigns domestic Alaska values for western redcedar, all of the western redcedar timber from those sales which is surplus to the needs of domestic processors in Alaska, shall be made available to domestic processors in the contiguous 48 United States at prevailing domestic prices. Should Region 10 sell, in the current fiscal year, less than the annual average portion of the decadal allowable sale quantity called for in the Tongass Land Management Plan in sales which are not deficit when appraised using a residual value approach that assigns domestic Alaska values for western redcedar, the volume of western redcedar timber available to domestic processors at prevailing domestic prices in the contiguous 48 United States shall be that volume: (1) which is surplus to the needs of domestic processors in Alaska; and (2) is that percent of the surplus western redcedar volume determined by calculating the ratio of the total timber volume which has been sold on the Tongass to the annual average portion of the decadal allowable sale quantity called for in the current Tongass Land Management Plan. The percentage shall be calculated by Region 10 on a rolling basis as each sale is sold (for purposes of this amendment, a `rolling basis' shall mean that the determination of how much western redcedar is eligible for sale to various markets shall be made at the time each sale is awarded). Western redcedar shall be deemed `surplus to the needs of domestic processors in Alaska' when the timber sale holder has presented to the Forest Service documentation of the inability to sell western redcedar logs from a given sale to domestic Alaska processors at a price equal to or greater than the log selling value stated in the contract. All additional western redcedar volume not sold to Alaska or contiguous 48 United States domestic processors may be exported to foreign markets at the election of the timber sale holder. All Alaska yellow cedar may be sold at prevailing export prices at the election of the timber sale holder.

I certify that neither my family nor I has a pecuniary interest in any of the congressionally directed spending items that I have requested, consistent with the requirements of Rule XLIV of the Standing Rules of the Senate for the following bill(s).

If you have any questions, please contact Leslie Ridle from my staff at 224-8485.

Sincerely,



Mark Begich
United States Senator