

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 6, 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 Barbara Mikulski  
Chair  
Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related  
Agencies  
Senate Dirksen Office Building, Room 142  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Shelby  
Ranking Member  
Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related  
Agencies  
Senate Hart Office Building, Room 125  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Inouye, Vice Chairman Cochran, Chair Mikulski, and Ranking Member Shelby:

As the Committee begins its consideration of the Fiscal Year 2011 Commerce-Justice-Science Appropriations Bill, I request support for the following programs:

**Project Title:** Sexual Assault Forensic Nursing Services

**Amount Requested:** \$400,000

**Location:** Anchorage, Alaska

**Recipient:** Municipality of Anchorage

**Purpose:** To continue the Municipality of Anchorage's Forensic Nursing/Sexual Assault Response Team program to provide professional support of victims and collect medical evidence to support investigation and prosecution of sexual assault cases.

**Project Justification:** Anchorage ranks high amongst US cities in its incidence of sexual assault.

**Project Title:** Anchorage Domestic Violence Prevention Project

**Amount Requested:** \$1,634,911

**Location:** Anchorage, Alaska

**Recipient:** Municipality of Anchorage

**Purpose:** Funds will support the Anchorage Domestic Violence Prevention Project (ADVPP) and go toward programs to hold offenders accountable and increase victim safety. Funds will enable monitoring of bail condition compliance and assisting with prosecution, as well as to victims for emergencies.

**Project Justification:** This project adheres to federal goals in responding to domestic violence. The Anchorage Domestic Violence Prevention Project (ADVPP) responds to the high number of domestic violence cases reported each year and to the significant number of women and children violently harmed each day. According to the FBI's Uniform Crime Report, Anchorage ranked third in the nation for rape in 2007. Current funding for the project expires August 2010. Without funding, proven essential public safety services that hold domestic violence offenders accountable and enhance victim safety will be lost.

**Project Title:** Plus-up of NMFS Budget Line Item titled: Alaska Native Marine Mammal Co-Management

**Amount Requested:** \$500,000

**Location:** Statewide

**Recipient:** Up to Nine Alaska Native Organizations

**Purpose:** Support of Alaska Native Organizations as authorized under the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), Section 119.

**Project Justification:** The MMPA preserves the rights of Alaska Natives to sustainably harvest marine mammals and authorizes Alaska Native Organizations (ANOs) to enter into cooperative agreements with NOAA to cooperatively manage the conservation of marine mammal species. NOAA holds nine co-management agreements covering thirteen species or stocks of Alaska marine mammals. The cost of maintaining these cooperative agreements have been chronically underfunded by the agency and made up in the appropriations process by congressional add-ons to individual ANOs. In FY11 Alaska's congressional delegation seeks to end individual earmarking and work with NOAA to increase the line item funding to be distributed to the ANOs through a new merit-based grant funding process. This request would plus-up the NMFS line item, Alaska Native Marine Mammal Co-management, to support this new grant process.

**Project Title:** Construct Transitional Housing for Sexual/Domestic Violence Survivors

**Amount Requested:** \$1,000,000

**Location:** Juneau, Alaska

**Recipient:** Aid to Women in Abuse and Rape Crisis (A.W.A.R.E.)

**Purpose:** The funding will be used for the construction of an extended stay safe and sober shelter for women and families leaving A.W.A.R.E's emergency domestic violence/sexual assault safe shelter. A site is already secured and the facility would include common areas for multiple uses, children's space, kitchen, youth computer area, laundry, and offices for supportive services. Funds will be used for green construction. An anticipated eight jobs will be created.

**Project Justification:** Alaska's per capita domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse rates are higher than almost every state in the nation. Funds will be used to construct a facility to address these issues.

**Project Title:** Ocean Acidification Research Center for Alaska

**Amount Requested:** \$500,000

**Location:** Fairbanks/Statewide, Alaska

**Recipient:** University of Alaska

**Purpose:** To study the effects of ocean acidification and climate change in Alaskan waters. Funds will be used to purchase moorings with sensors to be placed in Resurrection Bay, Prince William Sound and Kasitsna Bay. Laboratory equipment will be purchased to analyze data. A full-time research technician will be involved as well as other part-time research experts. Vessel charter costs are also included.

**Project Justification:** The federal government has a responsibility for the health of our ocean and fishery resources. Due to Alaska's cold water temperatures and highly productive continental shelf, the state will continue to experience ocean acidification more quickly. An Ocean Acidification Research Center will allow for an unprecedented dataset in a highly vulnerable region. It will provide for long term monitoring and modeling, field observations in highly sensitive areas and quantifying the physiological responses of vulnerable and commercially viable species. The research center will be the central repository for federal, state, private and public to access information about Alaska's circumstances and the impacts.

**Project Title:** Improve Provision of Justice in Rural Alaska

**Amount Requested:** \$300,000

**Location:** Rural Statewide, Alaska

**Recipient:** Alaska Rural Justice and Law Enforcement Commission

**Purpose:** The Commission seeks funding so it may continue to engage with federal, state and tribal policy makers, perform further outreach directly to rural Alaska, and work toward concrete solutions to the issues defined by Congress.

**Project Justification:** Congress created the Alaska Rural Justice and Law Enforcement Commission in 2004 to review jurisdiction over civil and criminal matters in Alaska "and report on options" that will address the law enforcement and justice needs in rural Alaska, and to address domestic violence, child abuse, and alcohol importation and abuse in rural Alaska. The Commission's work is consistent with and directly furthers the federal government's commitment to strengthen and build upon "the Nation-to-Nation relationship between the United States and tribal nations."

**Project Title:** Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Victim Advocacy

**Amount Requested:** \$178,000

**Location:** Anchorage/Statewide, Alaska

**Recipient:** Alaska Native Justice Center (ANJC)

**Purpose:** The funds requested would be for the positions of Victim Advocate and Family Law Advocate. ANJC provides a safe and supportive environment for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault to be heard and supported. Providing comprehensive, culturally appropriate support services will establish safety, prevent further victimization, and promote healing.

**Project Justification:** Victim advocates provide safety planning, court accompaniment, information and referral, violent crimes compensation application assistance, and state and tribal protective order application assistance to victims of sexual assault and domestic violence. Sexual assault and domestic violence against Alaska Native women has reached such a highly disproportionate level that international observers have labeled it a human rights problem (Amnesty International 2007). While Alaska has the highest victimization rate in the country, Anchorage has the highest victimization rate in Alaska, and Native women face the highest victimization rate in the city.

**Project Title:** Municipality-U.S. Attorney Partnership in Addressing Gangs

**Amount Requested:** \$100,000

**Location:** Anchorage, AK

**Recipient:** Municipality of Anchorage

**Purpose:** Funds are requested to continue the ongoing (since 2007) partnership between the Municipality and the U.S. Attorney's office to prosecute gang-related crimes, as originally proposed by former U.S. Attorney Tim Burgess. This relationship placed two Municipal attorneys in the U.S. Attorney's Office to prosecute gang related cases while allowing the U.S. Attorney's Office to continue concentrating their resources on other federal crimes.

**Project Justification:** At former U.S. Attorney Tim Burgess' invitation, the Municipality assigned two city prosecutors to the U.S. Attorney's office to address the backlog of gang and related crime and drugs cases in the Alaska Court System. The work of this program allows the federal attorneys to focus on other federal crimes while not having to hire additional, more expensive, federal attorneys to handle the gang cases. Without continued funding, the project may go away due to budget cuts as a result of focusing on essential municipal government services. Delays in processing the cases can mean the release of gang members into the community on bail.

**Project Title:** Utilize Seafood Processing Waste-Build a Modified Silage Mobile Demonstration Plant

**Amount Requested:** \$299,999

**Location:** Naknek, Alaska

**Recipient:** Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation

**Purpose:** The proposed project would build within a 20 foot container, a Modified Silage Mobile Demonstration Plant. The plant would be constructed at Carnitech of Seattle Washington and shipped to the designated location in Naknek, Alaska. The plant could be ready for the 2011 processing season and handle seafood processing waste from both herring and salmon production. Taking into consideration this level of processing capacity the mobile unit would yield approximately 370,000 lbs of processed silage in the first season, significantly reducing output of waste and allowing for the recapture of capital. The products produced would be both stable and transportable from even very remote locations in Alaska.

**Project Justification:** In 2008 AFDF funded research and development technologies to stabilize and hold seafood processing waste resulting in four new marketable "co-products." This project builds upon previous grant funded research administrated by AFDF to scale up existing research of valuable "co-products" made from seafood processing waste, to production at an efficient industry level. Newly developed technologies funded by AFDF address the issue of storage and stabilization of waste and can separate waste into different components to efficiently manufacture "co-products" thereby extracting additional value from the increased waste stream. Implementation of these new technologies will allow Alaskan communities to access and profit from the estimated 500,000 MT of ground and discharged fish waste produced from various sources both at sea and onshore.

**Project Title:** US/Canada Yukon River Salmon Agreement Studies

**Amount Requested:** \$500,000

**Location:** Statewide/Yukon River, Alaska

**Recipient:** State of Alaska

**Purpose:** Funding would allow the state to monitor Yukon River salmon populations and provide the information necessary to support negotiations between the US and Canada under the Yukon River Salmon Agreement.

**Project Justification:** This funding supports a suite of ongoing projects required to implement the Yukon River Salmon Agreement, an annex of the US/Canada Pacific Salmon Treaty.

**Project Title:** To research and rehabilitate endangered marine mammals in Alaska

**Amount Requested:** \$1,100,000

**Location:** Seward, Alaska

**Recipient:** Alaska SeaLife Center

**Purpose:** ASLC conducts multi-year interdisciplinary research in partnership with NOAA and the Alaska Department of Fish & Game to understand causes of the declines and attributes supporting recovery of Steller sea lions, northern fur seals, harbor seals, ice seals and Cook Inlet belugas. Issues being examined include nutrition, killer whale predation, juvenile mortality, feeding patterns diet, and exposure to toxins. Specific programs include a captive breeding program, field studies of free-ranging animals, long-term monitoring of a breeding rookery, and analysis of bio-samples from subsistence harvested animals and stranded animals which die throughout Alaska. ASLC's marine mammal rehabilitation program is the only program in the North Pacific capable of providing veterinary care for distressed marine mammals. This program also maintains a capability to rescue whales, porpoises, sea lions, and seals in distress.

**Project Justification:** Research and rehabilitation of endangered marine mammals are goals of both the Federal Endangered Species and Marine Mammal Protection Acts.

**Project Title:** Strengthen 12 Youth Court Programs in Alaska

**Amount Requested:** \$333,333

**Location:** Statewide, Alaska

**Recipient:** United Youth Courts of Alaska

**Purpose:** This request will fund additional capacity building of Alaskan Youth Courts. Youth Courts provide peer based restorative justice systems that divert juvenile offenders from the Juvenile Justice System. These funds will provide communication, including teleconferencing and web service since face to face meetings in Alaska are too expensive. Funds will also meet corporate obligations such as insurance, bookkeeping, filing taxes and an annual review.

**Project Justification:** The federal purposes include delinquency prevention and intervention and the reduction of juvenile substance abuse. Loss of the JAIBG funds threatened the existence of youth courts. However, the federal appropriation to Alaska in 2005 and 2006 supported youth courts' work toward sustainability and increased efforts to develop youth courts in smaller communities of Alaska. These funds strengthened our statewide association and youth court service throughout the state.

**Project Title:** Adult Re-Entry Program

**Amount Requested:** \$233,750

**Location:** Statewide, Alaska

**Recipient:** Alaska Native Justice Center (ANJC)

**Purpose:** Re-entry involves the use of programs targeted at promoting the effective reintegration of adult offenders back to communities upon release from prison and jail. ANJC's Re-entry Program's target population is Alaska Natives and utilizes a comprehensive case management approach. The funds requested would be for 2 FTE Adult Re-Entry Case Managers.

**Project Justification:** The Alaska Department of Corrections' 2008 Offender Profile reports that 36% of all offenders in an institution were Alaska Native. This disproportionate representation extends to criminal recidivism, as well. It is intended to assist offenders in acquiring the life skills needed to succeed in the community and become law-abiding citizens. A variety of programs are used to assist offenders in the re-entry process, including pre-release programs, drug rehabilitation and vocational training, and work programs. The Alaska Native Justice Center's Re-Entry Program is voluntary and serves non-violent offenders, convicted as adults, who are within 180 days pre-release or 180 days post-release. ANJC's Re-Entry Program works to reduce Alaska's high rate of recidivism, realize the potential of individual ex-offenders, and promote public safety.

**Project Title:** Construct New Bethel Police Station

**Amount Requested:** \$3,000,000

**Location:** Bethel, Alaska

**Recipient:** City of Bethel

**Purpose:** This project entails the construction of a new Bethel Police Station across the street from its current location. The new two-story building will be constructed inside a steel shell measuring 80 feet by 100 feet. The new building will have all of the space needed, including two sallyport bays to keep emergency response vehicles warm and dry in winter and ready for deployment.

**Project Justification:** The Bethel Police Station was built by cobbling three building pieces together in the early 1980s. There is no room for personal, one-on-one interviews (e.g., sexual assault victim interviews), no garage to keep vehicles warm in subzero temperatures, no classroom space, shortage of dispatch room space, insufficient evidence storage space, and lack of office space for responders. The Bethel Police Department desperately needs evidence storage space. Designing and constructing a new Bethel Police Station in Bethel will assist the U.S. Department of Homeland Security in its efforts to increase the capacity of the City to prevent, deter, respond to, mitigate, and recover from natural disasters and terrorism events.

**Project Title:** Subproject- A cooperative evaluation of operational and design measures to improve fuel efficiency on Gulf of Alaska fishing vessels

**Amount Requested:** \$380,000

**Location:** Sitka, Alaska

**Recipient:** Sitka Sound Science Center

**Purpose:** To evaluate operations and designs in order to improve fuel efficiency on Gulf of Alaska fishing vessels and therefore bring fuel costs down for industry workers.

**Project Justification:** Federal funding for this project is appropriate given the focus of the projects on federally managed fisheries and the areas of operation of the involved fishing fleet. The fuel efficiency study will involve vessels that cross between State and federal waters. Although state managers and coastal residents are fully aware that the jobs fostered and supported by this project will provide essential local and State benefits, the far-ranging operations of the Alaska fishing fleet and the contributions to research design and execution by federal fisheries managers qualifies this project for federal appropriations.

**Project Title:** Magnuson-Stevens Marine Education and Training

**Amount Requested:** \$1,000,000

**Location:** Pacific States; specifically Hawaii and Alaska

**Recipient:** University of Alaska/NMFS Grant Program

**Purpose:** To fund the Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA) Reauthorization of 2006 directing NOAA to establish a regionally-based Marine Education and Training program, in cooperation with the North Pacific and Western Pacific Fishery Management Councils. This program is an important element of the Magnuson-Stevens reauthorization. Since becoming law, the funding to support the required program implementation has not been requested by the Agency. This request would correct that circumstance.

**Project Justification:** This program would develop partnerships among agencies, academic institutions, and local training entities to advance the professional and technical employment of coastal and indigenous population in marine related careers. NOAA has a strong heritage of service to the primarily coastal communities of Alaska and the Pacific Islands. The unique demographics of these two regions contain a large proportion of indigenous peoples with strong cultural ties to the sea. Alaska Native and Native Pacific Islanders are highly dependent on marine resources for both subsistence and cultural identity.

MSRA of 2006 SEC. 109. WESTERN PACIFIC AND NORTH PACIFIC  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT.

Section 305 (16 U.S.C. 1855) is amended by adding at the end thereof the following:

“(j) WESTERN PACIFIC AND NORTHERN PACIFIC REGIONAL MARINE EDUCATION AND TRAINING.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a pilot program for regionally-based marine education and training programs in the Western Pacific and the Northern Pacific to foster understanding, practical use of knowledge (including native Hawaiian, Native Alaskan, and other Pacific Islander-based knowledge), and technical expertise relevant to stewardship of living marine resources. The Secretary shall, in cooperation with the Western Pacific and the North Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council, Councils, regional educational institutions, and local Western Pacific and Northern Pacific community training entities, establish programs or projects that will improve communication, education, and training on marine resource issues throughout the region and increase scientific education for marine-related professions among coastal community residents, including indigenous Pacific islanders, Native Hawaiians, Native Alaskans, and other underrepresented groups in the region.

**Project Title:** Clean Debris off Alaska Beaches

**Amount Requested:** \$750,000

**Location:** Statewide, Alaska

**Recipient:** Marine Conservation Alliance (MCA) Foundation

**Purpose:** This program will fund partners in the field to collect and dispose of marine debris at the coordination of the MCA Foundation Marine Debris Program Coordinator. The MCA Foundation conducts a statewide program to remove this growing problem from the Alaska shoreline. Projects will primarily be based in rural Alaska, but will be a statewide effort reaching from Sitka to Point Barrow. Efforts recently expanded to the Arctic, starting in 2009, with an aerial survey to assess debris concentrations from Kotzebue to Point Barrow, an effort that will continue to the northeastern most point of Alaska in 2010.

**Project Justification:** The Marine Debris Research, Prevention, and Reduction Act of 2006 recognizes marine debris removal as an important NOAA initiative, consistent with its mission to “protect, restore, and manage the use of coastal and ocean resources.” NOAA Administrator Conrad Lautenbacher reinforced this statement when she acknowledged marine debris as “one of the most pervasive problems plaguing the world’s oceans and coastal areas,” a sentiment agreed upon by the US Commission on Ocean Policy which stated it was a “serious threat to fishery resources, wildlife, and habitat, as well as human health and safety.” Marine mammals and seabirds, including those protected under the Endangered

Species Act, can become entangled in nets or mistake plastic debris as food, often with fatal results. Marine debris can foul propellers and clog cooling intakes of recreational boats and large ocean-going vessels. A serious threat in the state that produces 64% of the nation's domestically harvested seafood, much of it in federal waters, and often in precarious conditions where there is little room for error.

**Project Title:** Design and Engineer the Barrow Global Climate Change Research Facility

**Amount Requested:** \$900,000

**Location:** Barrow, Alaska

**Recipient:** BTS Professional Services, LLC (BTSPS)

**Purpose:** BTSPS seeks funding to complete the design and engineering on Phase II of the Barrow Global Climate Change Research Facility (BGCCRF). BGCCRF is a congressionally authorized project; completing the design and engineering work is an important step in the project. Section 998 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, enacted in 2005, authorized this project through several agencies, including the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the National Science Foundation (NSF), and the departments of Energy and Interior.

**Project Justification:** The lack of modern research facilities in the Arctic severely impedes developing an integrated global observation system on climate change. BGCCRF will fill a large void in research support in the Arctic, on the Arctic Ocean in Alaska. New scientific infrastructure must be designed to accommodate federal and university research in the Arctic. Currently, no capability exists to support continuous physical measurements of the Arctic Ocean, nor to support monitoring and experiments with marine organisms (krill, fish, etc.). As a result, scientists have requested that the facility incorporate running seawater as a component of its science support. The BGCCRF will offer climate researchers state-of-the-art laboratory facilities, administration, storage, and support.

**Project Title:** Seal and Steller Sea Lion Biological Research

**Amount Requested:** \$500,000

**Location:** Statewide, Alaska

**Recipient:** State of Alaska

**Purpose:** Funds to monitor ice seal populations, research species delineation, and conduct genetic research of harbor seals.

**Project Justification:** Management of marine mammals as dictated through the Marine Mammals Protection Act and species listed under the Endangered Species Act is a federal responsibility.

In addition, I request the Subcommittee include language to address areas of concern explained below:

**Project:** National Marine Fisheries Service Private Contribution Language

**Requester:** National Marine Fisheries Service

**Location:** Statewide, Alaska

**Purpose:** To provide the National Marine Fisheries Service the authority to accept non-Federal funds. (language only)

**Project:** Repeal Section 112 (a)(1) of Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2004

**Requester:** Sitka Tribe of Alaska

**Location:** Statewide, Alaska; specifically Alaska Native Tribes in Fairbanks North Star Borough, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, the Municipality of Anchorage, the Kenai Peninsula Borough, the City and Borough of Juneau, the Sitka Borough, and Ketchikan Borough.

**Purpose:** Repeal of 112(a)(1)

SEC. 112. (a)(1) None of the funds provided in this Act or hereafter may be used for courts or law enforcement officers for a tribe or village—

(A) in which fewer than 25 Native members live in the village year round;  
or

(B) that is located within the boundaries of the Fairbanks North Star Borough, the Matanuska Susitna Borough, the Municipality of Anchorage, the Kenai Peninsula Borough, the City and Borough of Juneau, the Sitka Borough, or the Ketchikan Borough.

I certify neither my immediate family nor I have a pecuniary interest in any of the congressionally directed spending item(s) 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