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August 21, 2010

The Honorable Eric H. Holder, Jr.
Attorney General of the United States
910 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Mr. Attorney General:

I was shocked and dismayed to read a lengthy front page article in today's edition of the Anchorage Daily News raising serious questions about the Justice Department's decision not to prosecute Bill Allen on federal charges that Mr. Allen allegedly transported Paula Roberds, age 16, from Seattle to Anchorage, paying her thousands of dollars each time, for immoral and exploitive purposes.

Ms. Roberds is originally from Goodnews Bay, a Yupik Eskimo village which is home to a federally recognized tribe. The State of Alaska's Community Database reports that 93.9 percent of the population of Goodnews Bay consists of Alaska Natives.

The article recites that the matter was extensively investigated by the Anchorage Police Department, as well as the FBI. It was further investigated by a career Trial Attorney in the Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section and was recommended for prosecution by the Trial Attorney and the Section Chief. The lead investigator for the Anchorage Police Department was reportedly told that because of Mr. Allen's involvement in ongoing corruption cases, a decision to prosecute in this matter would have to be approved by the Assistant Attorney General in charge of the Criminal Division, a position ordinarily held by a Senate confirmed Presidential appointee.

This case was reportedly first presented for prosecution in the spring of 2009. The investigating officers and the career prosecutors expected quick approval to prosecute. Yet they were forced to wait and wait without explanation. It was not until July 28, 2010 that Ms. Roberds was informed that the Justice Department declined prosecution.

The Anchorage Daily News characterized Ms. Roberds as "devastated." After this brave woman endured multiple interviews with detectives, FBI agents and prosecutors, she is not even

afforded the opportunity to tell her story to the Grand Jury. The investigating law enforcement officers maintain to this day that they had a sound case and none can understand why the Justice Department declined prosecution. The Anchorage Daily News quotes a former Justice Department attorney as saying it is unusual for a case to have progressed as far as this one did, only to stop before reaching the Grand Jury. He went on to say "Sex with a minor, especially by a public figure, would be such a high profile crime, there must have been a powerful reason not to move forward."

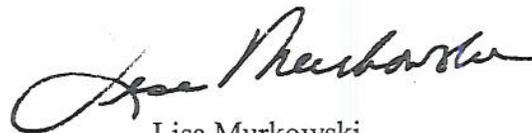
Today, the people of Alaska are left to wonder what that powerful reason might have been. During hearings before the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs leading to enactment of the Tribal Law and Order Act we heard time and again the federal government systematically declines prosecution of individuals accused of major crimes against American Indian and Alaska Native people.

Is it a mere coincidence that on the day before the President signed the Tribal Law and Order Act into law, a woman from an Alaska Native village is told that the Justice Department will not prosecute a once powerful Alaskan, against whom career investigators and prosecutors believe they built a rock solid case, with absolutely no explanation?

I respectfully ask that you personally inquire into the circumstances under which this prosecution was declined and provide my staff with a briefing at your earliest convenience. If an acceptable response is not forthcoming, it would be appropriate to ask the Inspector General and the Office of Professional Responsibility to pursue a formal inquiry with respect to this matter.

A copy of the Anchorage Daily News article is enclosed for your review. I await your timely response.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lisa Murkowski", written in a cursive style.

Lisa Murkowski

United States Senator

Enclosure

cc: Honorable Byron Dorgan, Chairman, Senate Committee on Indian Affairs
Honorable John Barrasso, Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Indian Affairs