

LISA MURKOWSKI  
ALASKA

COMMITTEES:  
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
RANKING MEMBER  
APPROPRIATIONS  
HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR,  
AND PENSIONS  
INDIAN AFFAIRS

## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0203

(202) 224-6665  
(202) 224-5301 FAX

May 15, 2009

510 L STREET, SUITE 550  
ANCHORAGE, AK 99501-1956  
(907) 271-3735

101 12TH AVENUE, ROOM 216  
FAIRBANKS, AK 99701-6278  
(907) 456-0233

4079 TONGASS AVENUE, SUITE 204  
KETCHIKAN, AK 99901-5526  
(907) 225-6880

851 EAST WESTPOINT DRIVE, SUITE 307  
WASILLA, AK 99654-7142  
(907) 376-7665

The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Diane Feinstein  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment,  
and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Lamar Alexander  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment,  
and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

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

As you prepare the FY10 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies appropriations bill, I respectfully request that you include funding for the following projects in my state:

**Project:** Village Safe Water

**Amount Requested:** \$42,000,000

**Recipients(s)/Location:** State of Alaska

**Agency, Account:** EPA, STAG, Alaska Native Village

**Purpose:** The Village Safe Water program provides grants to rural Alaska communities for the construction of new or improved drinking water and wastewater systems. This program is vital to extending basic sanitation to rural areas of Alaska where 24 percent of Alaska Native households still lack basic water and sewer services.

**Requested Bill Language:** "\$42,000,000 shall be for grants to the State of Alaska to address drinking water and waste infrastructure needs of rural and Alaska Native villages in accordance with the terms and conditions of the explanatory statement."

**Requested Explanatory Statement Language:** "Provided, That, of these funds: (1) the State of Alaska shall provide a match of 25 percent; (2) no more than 5 percent of the funds may be used for administrative and overhead expenses; and (3) the State of Alaska shall make awards consistent with the State-wide priority list established in conjunction with the Agency and the U.S. Department of Agriculture for all water, sewer, waste disposal, and similar projects carried out by the State of Alaska that are funded under section 221 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1301) or the

Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1921 et seq.) which shall allocate not less than 25 percent of the funds provided for projects in regional hub communities”

**Project:** Complete Federal Payment of Kake Land Exchange Compensation

**Amount Requested:** \$2,000,000

**Recipients(s)/Location:** Kake Tribal Corporation

**Agency, Account:** USFS, ALCL

**Purpose:** In 2000, Congress approved the Kake land exchange (PL 106-283 / 43 USC 1601). Based on timber appraisals prior to the exchange, Kake Tribal Corporation, the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act village corporation, was to have received \$15 million in total payment for relinquishing logging lands in the Tongass National Forest in Alaska (House report language 106-489, page 6). Due to delays in completion of the appropriations process to fund the conservation easement settlement, the corporation has only received \$13 million in total payments from the U.S. Forest Service. This language would mandate the completion of the payment expected by all parties at the time of the Act’s passage.

**Requested Bill Language:** “\$2 million shall be made available to Kake Tribal Corporation as an advance direct lump sum payment to implement PL 106-282.”

**Project:** Kenai Mountain Turnagain Arm Heritage Area Management Plan

**Amount Requested:** \$250,000

**Recipients(s)/Location:** National Park Service

**Agency, Account:** NPS, NRP, HPP

**Purpose:** The requested funds would pay for the preparation of a Management Plan for the Heritage Area that specifies actions, policies, strategies, performance goals, and recommendations to meet the goals of the Heritage Area in accordance with Section 8010 of PL 111-11. These funds are necessary to provide adequate resources so that the Local Coordinating Entity can complete the Management Plan within the required 3-yr period in accordance with the provisions of the Heritage Area Act.

**Project:** National Volcano Early Warning and Monitoring System

**Amount Requested:** \$15,000,000

**Recipients(s)/Location:** Nationwide

**Agency, Account:** USGS, GHA, USGS

**Purpose:** This is a programmatic request for the national volcano research and monitoring program.

**Project:** South Denali Visitor Center

**Amount Requested:** \$5,000,000

**Recipients(s)/Location:** South Denali Visitor Center, National Park Service

**Agency, Account:** NPS, CONST

**Purpose:** These funds will pay for the construction of a South Denali Visitor Center, which will provide an additional point of access to Denali National Park, improved access to Denali State Park, and offer new camping, hiking, and viewing opportunities for a wide range of users. This project will also serve an estimated 250,000 visitors that are expected by 2010; increase the quality of the visitor experience at Denali National and State Parks; and provide the basic infrastructure that will support private sector development of services and activities for visitors and Alaska residents.

**Project:** Yukon River & Statewide Solid Waste Backhaul Program

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

**Recipients(s)/Location:** Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council

**Agency, Account:** EPA, EPM

**Purpose:** These funds would help expand the solid waste back-haul program in Alaska, enabling an additional 2 million pounds of material to be backhauled. The project will reduce the amount of contaminants entering into the watersheds. It will also produce cost savings by increasing the life span of landfills.

**Project:** North Slope Science Initiative

**Amount Requested:** \$1,500,000

**Recipients(s)/Location:** USGS

**Agency, Account:** USGS, BIOR, BRM

**Purpose:** In Sect. 348 of the Energy Policy Act (EPACT) of 2005 (PL. 109-58), Congress established the North Slope Science Initiative—a federal-state-local effort to improve and prioritize the collection of scientific data on terrestrial, aquatic and marine ecosystems of the North Slope of Alaska. Under EPACT, the Secretary of the Interior is required to consult and coordinate with federal, state and local agencies and governments that have responsibility for land and resource management in Arctic Alaska and the offshore marine environment to ensure the comprehensive collection of data. While the NSSI has functioned since 2006 using money reprogrammed from federal and state agencies, this would formally fund the coordinated research efforts by nine federal and state agencies. So far, it has initiated a database of ongoing science projects, monitored hydrologic processes in the region, gathered baseline vegetation data, designed and deployed a water quality and bathymetry system, created updated and higher resolution digital information “layers” for the region and coordinated data collection with the National Science Foundation and the U.S. Arctic Research Commission. Continuing funding would permit vital research on permafrost, coastal and riverine erosion, caribou, sea ice, hydrology, lake drying, vegetation change, and contaminant studies in northern Alaska.

**Project:** Tongass Timber Pipeline / Ten Year Sale Preparation

**Amount Requested:** \$2,500,000

**Recipients(s)/Location:** USFS

**Agency, Account:** USFS, NFS, FP

**Purpose:** This program will fund the USFS plan and promise to ensure a viable timber sale program by preparing a number of ten-year timber sales. This volume is to be an addition to the regular program so that Region 10 can restore the volume of timber under contract to a level that will support the mills in Southeast Alaska. The Forest Service must 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 to build and upgrade manufacturing facilities and to purchase logging and road construction equipment. The ten-year sales should be designed so that they provide sufficient assured volume for a single-shift for each type of mill; the mills could then purchase the timber for the second-shift from the regular timber sale program. An average ten-year sale size of about 200 million board feet is expected. Since NEPA projects typically cost about \$1.6 million regardless of their size, the ten-year timber sale projects will be much less costly than preparing the same volume in a greater number of smaller projects.

**Project:** Buckland Water and Sewer

**Amount Requested:** \$5,000,000

**Recipients(s)/Location:** Northwest Arctic Borough, AK

**Agency, Account:** EPA, STAG, IA

**Purpose:** These funds would build the necessary infrastructure to provide piped water and sewer service to the homes in Buckland, Alaska. This is a multi-phased project, including a lagoon, water plant, water storage tank, a river intake, raw water line, underground circulating water mains, and gravity sewer system with three lift stations. The Army Corps of Engineers is providing the River Intake and Raw Water Line. Residents of Buckland have been seeking water/sewer improvements for many years. A limited number of homes are served by a flush and haul system. Most of the residents currently haul water from the washeteria and use honey-buckets.

**Project:** Spruce Bark Beetle Infestation

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

**Recipients(s)/Location:** Kenai Peninsula Borough, AK

**Agency, Account:** USFS, FIRE, FUELS

**Purpose:** This funding would pay for the removal of hazard trees, the identification and implementation of fire hazard and forest health management, the construction of emergency response facilities, and the updating of emergency response equipment. Kenai Peninsula Borough Ordinance 2004-33 accepted the Interagency "All Hands/All Lands" Action Plan as the wildfire section of the borough's All Hazard Mitigation Plan. This created a five year funding strategy for FY2005 through FY2009 that would generate \$247 million in total program funding, of which the Kenai Peninsula Borough is to receive \$23 million to restore the urban interface. This funding is critical to protect life and property throughout the Borough. The Spruce Bark Beetle infestation has ravaged the region's forests. Controlling this infestation now will prevent fires and other natural disasters that could result from inaction.

**Project:** Alaska Land Conveyance Funding

**Amount Requested:** \$5,000,000

**Recipients(s)/Location:** BLM

**Agency, Account:** BLM

**Purpose:** In 2004, Congress authorized, through PL 108-452, increased funding for land surveys and increased conveyance efforts to transfer the 104 million acres of land that the Alaska State government received at Statehood and the 44 million acres that Native corporations were granted by the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971. Now 50 years after Statehood, nearly 10 million acres still need to be conveyed and patented to the State, nearly 14 million acres are still awaiting conveyance/patenting to Native corporations, and several thousand Native allotment parcels are still pending conveyance under the 1906 Alaska Native Allotment Act. This would fund additional survey efforts and land transfer work to continue mandated land transfers/conveyances in Alaska.

**Project:** Air Quality Studies, PM 2.5 Attainment Implementation

**Amount Requested:** \$1,500,000

**Recipients(s)/Location:** Fairbanks North Star Borough, AK

**Agency, Account:** EPA, EPM

**Purpose:** The Fairbanks North Star Borough (FNSB) was listed by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as a Non-attainment for PM 2.5 fine particles on December 23, 2008. These funds would be used to meet EPA's standard. Research by the FNSB, the Alaska Department of Environmental Quality, and the EPA clearly demonstrates that wood stoves are a significant source of

PM 2.5 particulates within the FNSB. Additional contributors include highway and non-road diesel engines, fuel oil stoves, and dust.

**Project:** Izembek Land Exchange

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

**Recipients(s)/Location:** Izembek National Wildlife Refuge, USFWS

**Agency, Account:** USFWS, NWRP

**Purpose:** These funds would pay for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) required by the Department of the Interior to implement Section 6402 of PL 111-11, the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009. Specifically, this section requires the Secretary of the Interior to commence preparing an EIS within 60 days of the land exchange involving the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge.

**Project:** New Water Source - Feasibility and Design; City of Homer, AK

**Amount Requested:** \$2,000,000

**Recipients(s)/Location:** City of Homer, AK

**Agency, Account:** EPA, STAG

**Purpose:** Population growth and increased tourism within the City of Homer service area have strained the existing water system. The strain is further exacerbated by climate change, which has increased evaporation, and by more stringent federal water quality guidelines. The City has been proactive in addressing the looming water problem by commissioning a new Water and Sewer Master Plan. Based on projected population growth, the plan recommends that Homer develop a new water source to augment Bridge Creek Reservoir. Requested funds would be used for planning and design for this project.

**Project:** Drinking Water Facility Upgrades; Wrangell, AK

**Amount Requested:** \$1,500,000

**Recipients(s)/Location:** Wrangell Borough, AK

**Agency, Account:** EPA, STAG

**Purpose:** These funds would help the community of Wrangell replace its water reservoir infrastructure. Modifications to the current drinking water treatment facility can help address water shortages. A new water line is needed to the upper reservoir along with another storage tank. Additional filtration is also needed to address high levels of lead, copper, and disinfectant byproducts. Furthermore, there is no backup generator or sand recycler to address filtration. Lastly, EPA rules require establishment of a fenced settling pond for back-flush water.

**Project:** Improvements to Wastewater Treatment Facilities

**Amount Requested:** \$2,500,000

**Recipients(s)/Location:** Municipality of Skagway

**Agency, Account:** EPA, STAG

**Purpose:** The Borough is pursuing retrofit of its Sewer Treatment Plant (STP) facility with installation of membrane bioreactor system. The Municipality of Skagway was issued a notice of violation by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) this year because its current facility is unable to handle the demands being placed on it during the summer season by visitors. The requested funds would be used to improve wastewater treatment infrastructure to address the EPA's concerns.

**Project:** City of Soldotna Water-Sewer System Improvements

**Amount Requested:** \$1,293,900

**Recipients(s)/Location:** City of Soldotna

**Agency, Account:** EPA, STAG

**Purpose:** These funds would pay for water and sewer system improvements in Soldotna, Alaska. The water improvements include modification of the existing well and well house, piping and equipment improvements, installation of an on-site chlorine generator, building improvements, and a SCADA system upgrade. Recent changes in EPA regulations on arsenic have caused one of Soldotna's primary water wells to be shut down and dismantled, requiring that new sources of water be found. The sewer system improvements include replacement of the remaining sewer lift station pumps, rails, and control panel components. The City has been systematically replacing these components in an effort to ensure continued reliable service, replace antiquated equipment, and upgrade the system to ensure SCADA compatibility.

In addition, I understand that in recent years, the Subcommittee has chosen to limit or not include Member requested projects in both the Indian Health Service and Bureau of Indian Affairs accounts. Should the Subcommittee chose to list projects in these accounts, I respectfully request that you include funding for the following priorities in my state:

**Project:** Samuel Simmonds Memorial Hospital

**Amount Requested:** \$50,000,000

**Recipients(s)/Location:** Samuel Simmonds Memorial Hospital; Barrow, AK

**Agency, Account:** IHS, FACIL, HCF

**Purpose:** The Samuel Simmonds Memorial Hospital in Barrow, Alaska, has been the number one hospital on the Indian Health Service Inpatient Priority list for replacement since 2005, and has been in planning and construction since 1992. \$50 million is required for post enclosure and pre-finish. Due to the remote location and harsh Arctic climate on the North Slope of Alaska, a delay in the purchase of the construction materials may significantly increase costs due to the short shipping and construction season. Enclosure of the building is required to protect the structure from the harsh Arctic elements. The current hospital was constructed in 1963 and is in critically poor condition. It is estimated that the new hospital will generate an additional 140 jobs. It is the only facility to serve residents in an area the size of the State of Washington.

**Project:** Dental Health Aide Therapy Program

**Amount Requested:** \$2,500,000

**Recipients(s)/Location:** Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC)

**Agency, Account:** IHS, SERV, CS

**Purpose:** These funds would pay for a Dental Health Aide Therapy Program based in Kenai, Alaska. Although dental therapy is authorized in over 40 countries worldwide, including New Zealand, the United Kingdom and Canada, the Dental Health Aide Therapy Training Program is the only training program of its kind in the entire United States. Through a 638 compact with the federal government, the ANTHC furthers the federal government's trust responsibility for the provision of health care to Alaska Natives / American Indians who reside in Alaska.

**Project:** Alaska Native Medical Center (ANMC) Staffing

**Amount Requested:** \$1,500,000

**Recipients(s)/Location:** Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium

**Agency, Account:** IHS, SERV, CS

**Purpose:** ANMC is the statewide tertiary care center for Indian Health Service beneficiaries in Alaska. These funds would pay for needed additional staffing and operational funds to meet increased demands for patient care due to population migration patterns. In the first two months of FY09, ANMC had to divert 371 patients to other hospitals because they did not have sufficient staffing to meet the health care needs of its patients. The subset of these patients who did not have alternative resources cost ANMC \$520,000, with the annualized cost would be over \$3 million.

**Project:** Maniilaq Elder Care Addition

**Amount Requested:** \$5,000,000

**Recipients(s)/Location:** Maniilaq Association; Kotzebue, AK

**Agency, Account:** IHS, FACIL, HCF

**Purpose:** The requested funds would pay for the construction of an 18-bed, long-term nursing care wing at the Maniilaq Health Center in Kotzebue, Alaska, the regional hub of the Northwest Arctic Borough. A feasibility study has shown that it will be financially feasible with a break-even occupancy level of 75 percent. Medicaid will be the primary source of revenue for the projected \$1.9 million annual operations budget. Phase I of construction will begin in summer 2009 utilizing \$7 million in funding from the State of Alaska, and now Maniilaq is seeking Phase II funding of \$10.7 million to complete the project. This project will provide care to elders in a region that is geographically isolated from the rest of Alaska. Currently, there are no other options for elders and their families to receive these services within the region. It will greatly expand care to Alaska Natives and all residents of Northwest Alaska.

Finally, I request that you include the following bill language:

**Project:** Language to Maintain the Indian Healthcare Delivery in the State of Alaska

**Amount Requested:** \$0

**Agency, Account:** IHS

**Purpose:** For at least 10 years, similar language included in various Interior Appropriations bills has maintained the integrity of the regional Alaska Native health care system. Alaska has a long history of providing comprehensive health care to Native people spread across huge tracts of land using regional Native organizations run by Boards of Directors representing villages served. With 231 federally-recognized tribes in Alaska, some with only a handful of tribal members, permitting individual villages to remove scarce Indian Health Service funds from a regional Alaska Native health organization would lead to a diminution of vitally necessary health services for all Alaska Natives served by that regional health Native organization. My amendment would extend this long standing language and additional 2 fiscal years.

**Requested Bill Language:** “(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of the law and until October 1, 2011, the Indian Health Service may not disburse funds for the provision of health care services pursuant to Public Law 93-638 (25 U.S.C. 450 et seq.) to any Alaska Native village or Alaska Native village corporation that is located within the area served by an Alaska Native regional health entity.

(b) Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit the disbursement of funds to any Alaska Native village or Alaska Native corporation under any contract or compact entered into prior to May 1, 2006, or to prohibit the renewal of any such agreement. (c) For the purpose of this section, Eastern Aleutian Tribes, Inc., the Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments, and the Native Village of Eyak shall be treated as Alaska Native regional health entities to which funds may be disbursed under this section.”

**Project:** Retention of Red Cedar Language

**Amount Requested:** \$0

**Recipients(s)/Location:** USFS

**Agency, Account:** USFS, NSF, FP

**Purpose:** This provision would provide that sales in the USFS Region 10 (Tongass Forest) must appraise above deficit and that mills in the Pacific Northwest have a first right of refusal for any sales containing red cedar which are not processed Alaska mills. It has been included in at least the last 7 appropriations bills.

**Requested Bill Language:** “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 red cedar. 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 red cedar, all of the western red cedar 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 red cedar, the volume of western red cedar 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 red cedar 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 red cedar is eligible for sale to various markets shall be made at the time each sale is awarded). Western red cedar 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 red cedar 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 red cedar 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 to the best of my knowledge neither I nor my immediate family has a pecuniary interest in any of the congressionally directed spending items that I have requested, consistent with the requirements of paragraph 9 of Rule XLIV of the Standing Rules of the Senate. I further certify that I

have posted a description of the items requested on my official website, along with the accompanying justification.

Thank you for your consideration of my requests. I look forward to working with you as the Committee develops this bill. If you have any questions, please contact Elizabeth McDonnell from my staff by phone at (202) 224-9306 (direct) or via email at [elizabeth\\_mcdonnell@murkowski.senate.gov](mailto:elizabeth_mcdonnell@murkowski.senate.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lisa Murkowski". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Lisa" being particularly prominent.

Lisa Murkowski  
United States Senator