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March 25, 2010

The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Senator Thad Cochran
Vice Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
113 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Inouye and Vice Chairman Cochran:

In the wake of the recent federal fishery failure declaration of the Yukon River Chinook salmon fishery, I am writing to request that you consider including funding in the Fiscal Year 2010 Supplemental Appropriations that address the effects of the disaster. Low returns in the Yukon River Chinook salmon fishery have led to a dramatic reduction in commercial salmon harvest and subsistence activities in many Alaska communities. In 2008, the commercial Chinook salmon harvest was 89 percent below the 5-year average, and the commercial fishery remained closed throughout 2009. These decreases in harvest have exacted a heavy toll on the communities that depend on this fishery for their livelihood.

In response to these low numbers, Secretary of Commerce Locke, earlier this year, announced the determination of a commercial fishery failure for the Yukon River Chinook salmon fishery and pledged the Administration's support to expedite the delivery of resources to address the failure should appropriated funds become available. In keeping with this commitment, I urge you to include in the Fiscal Year 2010 Supplemental Appropriations a request for \$10 million to mitigate the effects of the failure based on the Administration's and the State of Alaska's economic analysis of data regarding the Yukon River Chinook salmon fishery.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and I look forward to working with you to ensure an appropriate Federal response to the Yukon River Chinook salmon fishery failure.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has 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 that I have posted a description of the items requested on my official website, along with the accompanying justification.

Sincerely,



Lisa Murkowski
United States Senator