

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

510 L STREET, SUITE 600  
ANCHORAGE, AK 99501-1956  
(907) 271-3735

101 12TH AVENUE, ROOM 329  
FAIRBANKS, AK 99701-6278  
(907) 456-0233

800 GLACIER AVENUE, SUITE 101  
JUNEAU, AK 99801  
(907) 586-7277

805 FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 105  
KENAI, AK 99611-9104  
(907) 283-5808

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

February 1, 2013

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski  
Chairwoman  
Committee on Appropriations  
128 Capitol Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Richard Shelby  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
146-A Capitol Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairwoman Mikulski and Vice Chairman Shelby:

I write to urge you to schedule Committee hearings this month regarding the impacts of the sequestration established in the Budget Control Act of 2011.

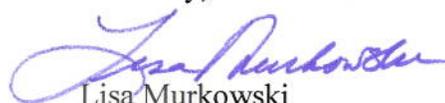
As you know, the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 postponed the across-the-board, automatic spending cuts known as sequestration until March 1, 2013. As this date rapidly approaches, I am increasingly concerned that the Administration has not provided details about how these spending cuts would affect specific programs and agency personnel.

The OMB report issued pursuant to the Sequestration Transparency Act of 2012 provided which accounts were sequestrable and which were exempt, yet it did not detail, in a practical sense, how the cuts would be implemented. It is imperative that we, as appropriators, understand how these cuts would be administered across each agency and program, and what affect the cuts would have if they are not replaced by more targeted and thoughtful debt reduction measures.

I respectfully request that our committee hold a series of hearings, or at the very least a hearing, so that we have the opportunity to ask questions and receive immediate responses by agency heads and OMB. The opportunity for an open dialogue between members of the Committee and the Administration is essential for Congress to make the most informed decisions possible. I have heard from many constituents who are looking to me to provide clarity on the impacts of sequestration, and Committee hearings would provide an avenue where such questions can be raised.

Thank you for considering this request. I look forward to working with you in the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress.

Sincerely,



Lisa Murkowski  
United States Senator