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The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate

The Honorable Herb Kohl
Chairman
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural
Development, Food and Drug Administration,
and Related Agencies
United States Senate

The Honorable Sam Brownback
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural
Development, Food and Drug Administration,
and Related Agencies
United States Senate

Dear Chairman Inouye, Ranking Member Cochran, Chairman Kohl, and Ranking Member Brownback:

As you prepare the FY11 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies funding bill, I respectfully request that you include funding for the following projects and programs, which are of particular importance to the residents of my state:

Project: Village Safe Water Program

Amount Requested: \$24,500,000

Recipients(s)/Location: The Village Safe Water Program is administered by the State of Alaska's Department of Environmental Conservation. Grants will be made to eligible Alaska communities. For the last several years the State of Alaska and the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, a Congressionally-chartered entity, have been involved in applying for grant funding on behalf of the communities.

Agency: USDA, Rural Development

Purpose: This request would support planning, design, construction, technical assistance, and training associated with providing rural Alaska communities with basic water and wastewater infrastructure. Previously appropriated Federal funds, coupled with state matching funds, have resulted in substantial improvements in the health, safety, and well-being of thousands of Alaskans. However, roughly 20 percent of homes in rural Alaska still lack basic sanitation, and a number of the early water systems are aging and of insufficient capacity to handle the current need.

Project Benefit to the Taxpayer: This program extends basic sanitation to residents of rural Alaska.

Project: High Energy Cost Grant Program

Amount Requested: \$18,000,000

Recipients(s)/Location: This is an authorized national program that awards grants to eligible communities in which the average residential home energy costs are 275 percent of the national average.

Agency: USDA, Rural Utility Service

Purpose: This program provides grants to eligible entities or the Denali Commission to construct, extend, upgrade, or otherwise improve energy generation, transmission, or distribution facilities serving communities in which the average residential home energy costs are 275 percent of the national average. This program is authorized under 7 U.S.C. 918a. Funding for this program has been provided since 2001. Unfortunately, the President's budget proposes to eliminate this important program, which targets aid to the communities most in need.

Project Benefit to the Taxpayer: This program helps to reduce energy costs in areas of the country where the average residential home energy costs are 275 percent or more of the national average.

Project: Education Grants to Alaska Native Serving Institutions and Native Hawaiian Serving Institutions
Amount Requested: \$3,200,000

Agency, Account: USDA, CSREES, Research and Education

Recipients(s)/Location: This is an authorized program that makes competitive grants to Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian serving institutions.

Purpose: This grant program is authorized under 7 U.S.C. 3156. The purpose of these grants is to strengthen the ability of Alaska Native serving institutions and Native Hawaiian institutions to carry out education, applied research, and related community development programs. This program was reauthorized in the 2008 Farm Bill through 2012.

Project Benefit to the Taxpayer: Funding for this grant program was included in the President's budget.

Project: Grants to Broadcasting Systems Program

Amount Requested: \$2,000,000

Recipients(s)/Location: Non-profit Public Broadcasting Systems; AK, ME, ND, and VT

Agency, Account: USDA, Rural Development

Purpose: The Grants to Broadcasting Systems Program ensures that public broadcasting systems located in rural areas are able to develop and broadcast programming that specifically addresses the rural concerns and issues of their audience. Without this funding and the matching funds that federal funding generates, the Alaska stations would produce far less local, Alaska programming. This program is authorized at \$5 million per fiscal year through 2012 (P.L. 110-246, Sec. 6014). In FY07 and FY08, USDA made the decision not to fund the set-aside for this very successful and effective program, and restoring funding for this program at the minimum level of \$2 million per fiscal year would ensure continued delivery of Alaska-related services and programming to rural residents.

Project Benefit to the Taxpayer: This program helps to ensure locally developed programming in rural America.

Project: Wood Utilization Research, Alaska

Amount Requested: \$7.1 million (national funding level)

Recipients(s)/Location: This funding is distributed among Wood Utilization Research Centers in several states, including the University of Alaska, Fairbanks.

Agency, Account: National Institute of Food and Agriculture, Research and Education Activities

Purpose: The Wood Utilization Research (WUR) funding is used to help stimulate and support technical innovation in the wood products industry. In doing so, the WUR funding has helped to enhance the global competitiveness of the U.S. wood products industry and strengthen rural vitality.

Project Benefit to the Taxpayer: This funding helps to promote product innovation and support a robust U.S. wood products industry.

Project: Bethel Police Station

Amount Requested: \$1 million

Recipients(s)/Location: City of Bethel; Bethel, AK

Agency, Account: Rural Development

Purpose: Funding is requested to construct a new police station in Bethel, Alaska. The current structure is failing and poses a life and safety risk to employees.

Project Benefit to the Taxpayer: A new police station is needed to protect the life and safety of the employees and Bethel area residents.

Project: City of Nome Public Safety Building

Amount Requested: \$1 million

Recipients(s)/Location: City of Nome; Nome, AK

Agency, Account: Rural Development

Purpose: The requested funding will be used for planning and construction of a facility to house basic emergency and security services for the residents of Nome and Northwest Alaska.

Project Benefit to the Taxpayer: The new facility will assist the City of Nome in providing emergency services in the region.

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.

Sincerely,



Lisa Murkowski
United States Senator