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COMMITTEES:  
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## United States Senate

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Honorable Daniel K. Akaka  
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Honorable John Barrasso  
Vice Chairman  
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Gentlemen:

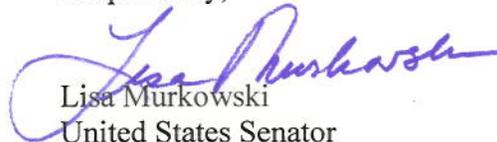
I respectfully request that the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs hold a hearing to discuss bypass mail and the importance of regular and efficient mail delivery to Native communities in Alaska, Hawaii, and across the continental United States. Given the U.S. Postal Service's (USPS) current financial challenges and the ongoing discussions in Congress regarding postal reform, I believe this hearing should occur as soon as possible.

In light of the challenges facing USPS, I believe our committee should examine how USPS will continue to "provide a maximum degree of effective and regular postal service to rural" Native communities. For Native Americans, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians, especially those who live in remote isolated areas of the country where the Internet is widely unavailable or unreliable, the mail is an important link to commerce, education, and health care. I believe it is our duty to ensure that Congress does not abandon the long-held principal of "universal service at universal rates" to our Native communities.

Thank you for your attending to this request. My staff, Kristi Williams (224-8767) and Karen McCarthy (224-3621) are available to discuss this matter further.

I look forward to continuing to work with you on this and other issues important to Native communities.

Respectfully,



Lisa Murkowski  
United States Senator

cc: Members of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs