

LISA MURKOWSKI  
ALASKA

COMMITTEES:  
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
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# United States Senate

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Jim Nordlund  
U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development  
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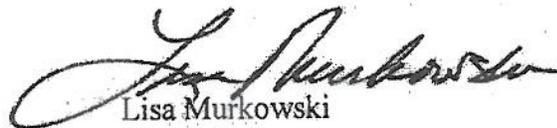
Mr. Nordlund:

I write to request a waiver for United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development (USDA RD) loans for homes in Alaska that are serviced by water catchment or cistern systems. This USDA RD restriction on homes affects low-to moderate income borrowers purchasing homes in rural communities throughout Alaska because in certain parts of Alaska a large percentage of homes do not have access to city water services and therefore use these water systems to provide water to the homes.

As you may know, never before has Alaska had to seek a waiver or exemption from the USDA for rural development loans on properties with these types of water systems, but the Alaska USDA Service Center has decided the rural development loan program will no longer provide financing to homes that utilize water catchment and cistern systems. This is an urgent matter that is having an immediate and harmful impact on the housing market in Alaska and in particular in Ketchikan. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development granted its annual waiver, and with Freddie Mac and Alaska Housing Finance Corporation having continuously financed homes in Ketchikan that have these water systems, I respectfully request immediate waiver approval of USDA RD loans for homes with water catchment and cistern systems in Alaska.

Thank you for your attention to this request. Should your staff have any questions, please have them contact Amanda Makki of my staff at 202-224-3185.

Sincerely,



Lisa Murkowski  
United States Senator

CC: USDA Secretary, Tom Vilsack