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## United States Senate

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June 12, 2012

Honorable John McHugh  
Secretary of the Army  
1400 Defense Pentagon  
Washington DC 20301-1400

Dear Mr. Secretary:

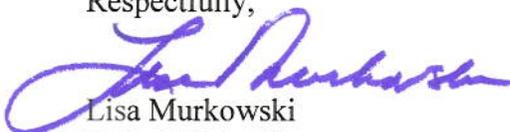
I write with respect to the unfortunate accident that caused the U.S. Army Reserve Vessel Monterrey (LCU-2030) to beach on Puffin Island, Alaska last weekend. I expect that the Army will fully investigate the cause of this incident and take all appropriate steps, in conjunction with the Coast Guard and the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, to prevent damage to the environment and fisheries. I intend to follow this matter very closely and would ask that you instruct your staff to be proactive and candid in the information that is shared with me and my staff.

The Monterrey was carrying supplies to support a US Marine Corps led Innovative Readiness Training activity at Mertarvik, Alaska. I have a very special interest in the success of this effort. The Alaska Native village of Newtok, Alaska is one of a handful of Native villages whose land base has been eroded by climate change. I sponsored the land transfer legislation necessary to provide the Native people of Newtok with a new home in Mertarvik. The people of Newtok have been working diligently to create their new home at Mertarvik with assistance from the Innovative Readiness Training program. Due to the short Alaska construction season it is imperative that these supplies are transported as soon as possible.

I understand that it may be too soon to determine when the Monterrey will be able to be towed to a shipyard for repair. I would encourage the Army to consider the Ketchikan Shipyard for these repairs, consistent with all relevant rules, laws, and regulations. Quite coincidentally, on June 5<sup>th</sup>, the Army announced a \$45 million contract to Ketchikan Shipyard for programmed and unprogrammed drydocking, cleaning, painting, repairs and modifications to U.S. Army Active and Reserve Vessels located on the West Coast of the United States and Hawaii. It would appear that repairs to the Monterrey may fall within the scope of the contract. I would be delighted if the Army would consider Ketchikan Shipyard for this work.

Thank you for considering my views.

Respectfully,



Lisa Murkowski  
United States Senator

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