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April 6, 2010

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 Barbara Milkulski
Chairman
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science
and Related Agencies
United States Senate

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science
and Related Agencies
United States Senate

Dear Chairman Inouye, Ranking Member Cochran, Chairman Milkulski, and Ranking Member Shelby:

As you prepare the FY11 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies appropriations bill, I respectfully request that you include funding for the following projects and programs in my state:

Project: Anchorage Domestic Violence Prevention Project

Amount Requested: \$1,635,000

Recipient(s)/Location: Municipality of Anchorage, AK

Agency, Account: DOJ, Grant Program

Purpose: Funding is requested to support the Anchorage Domestic Violence Prevention Project. The Abused Women's Aid in Crisis, Inc., the state's largest domestic violence shelter, is also a partner in this project. Program funds will be used to hold offenders accountable, increase victim safety, enable monitoring of bail condition compliance, and assist with prosecutions. The Anchorage Police Department responds to an average of 3,600 reported cases of domestic violence each year. In almost 20 percent of these domestic violence cases, a sexual assault also occurs. According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Anchorage ranked 3rd in the United States for rape in 2007.

Project: Bering Sea Crab Management and Research

Amount Requested: \$1,000,000

Recipient(s)/Location: State of Alaska

Agency, Account: DOC, NOAA

Purpose: Under the Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands crab fisheries, the State of Alaska is delegated authority to manage federal fisheries to ensure

effective long-term conservation and sustainable crab harvest. Ongoing funding is needed to conduct biological research and stock surveys and to gather fishery information. The requested funding will support additional research regarding stock productivity and sustainability and analysis of commercial fishing data pertaining to fisheries practices and their effects on stocks.

Project: Big Brothers Big Sisters Alaska Mentoring Expansion

Amount Requested: \$500,000

Recipient(s)/Location: Big Brother Big Sister; Fairbanks, AK

Agency, Account: DOJ, Grant Programs

Purpose: Funding is requested to extend evidence-based, research-proven mentoring solutions to underserved populations across Alaska; this program is aimed at reaching youth who are at high risk for substance abuse, dropping out of school, and suicide. Mentoring has been shown to improve graduation rates, performance at school, and to reduce the risk of self-destructive behaviors among youth.

Project: Debris Removal from Alaskan Beaches

Amount Requested: \$1,500,000

Recipient(s)/Location: Marine Conservation Alliance Foundation; Juneau, AK

Agency, Account: DOC, NOAA

Purpose: Persistent debris in the world's oceans is a serious and growing environmental problem. Every year tangles of derelict fishing gear, cargo vessel netting, and other debris – much of it of foreign origin – wash up on beaches throughout Alaska, posing a threat to wildlife, people, and even navigation. The requested funds would support a statewide program to remove debris from the Alaska's shoreline. To date the Marine Conservation Alliance Foundation (MCAF) has collected over 1,400,000 pounds of debris from Alaska's coastal environment. In 2008, MCAF was recognized with the National Marine Fisheries Service's Sustainable Fisheries Leadership Award for Coastal Habitat Restoration.

Project: Domestic Violence Sexual Assault Prevention

Amount Requested: \$4,000,000

Recipient(s)/Location: State of Alaska

Agency, Account: DOJ, Grant Programs

Purpose: The requested funding would support a comprehensive approach to domestic violence and sexual assault investigation and prevention in Alaska. Components of the strategy include the hiring and training of new state troopers to investigate sexual assault and sex abuse of minors; increased support for domestic violence shelters; a statewide public education campaign to heighten awareness of domestic violence; and outreach to families to prevent domestic violence and child maltreatment.

Project: Improve Provision of Justice in Rural Alaska

Amount Requested: \$600,000

Recipient(s)/Location: Alaska Rural Justice and Law Enforcement Commission; Anchorage, AK

Agency, Account: DOJ, Grant Programs

Purpose: In 2004, Congress created the Alaska Rural Justice and Law Enforcement Commission to provide recommendations relating to law enforcement and judicial services; regulation of alcohol importation and interdiction; and child abuse and domestic violence prevention strategies

in rural Alaska. Alaska rural communities experience epidemic rates of youth suicide, domestic violence, and child sexual abuse – much of which is fueled by the highest rate of alcohol consumption in the country. The root causes of the challenges facing rural communities are complex and require long term solutions and cooperation among Native leaders and the state and the federal governments. The Commission is composed of diverse interests and viewpoints, including the U.S. Attorney, the Alaska Attorney General, the Commissioner of Public Safety, and Alaska Native representatives. As such, it is uniquely positioned to promote a collaborative dialogue and resolution to the challenges faced. To date, the Commission has made nine general categories of recommendations that are based upon extensive public research. Much work remains to be done to finalize specific recommendations that will address the challenges as an intergovernmental response and meet the Commission’s mandate. The requested funding would enable the Commission to further its work toward completing its mandate and improving the quality of life in rural Alaska.

Project: Pacific Ocean Shelf Tracking Extension Unimak Pass

Amount Requested: \$747,000

Recipients(s)/Location: Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation; Anchorage, AK

Agency, Account: DOC, NOAA

Purpose: The requested funding would be used to acquire and deploy a large-scale acoustic telemetry network in the Unimak Pass area of the Alaska Peninsula. Such a system would provide oceanographic data and tracking of Alaska’s salmon populations returning to the Bristol Bay region, as well as critical data about the emigration of Pacific halibut through the area. The collected data would be used to strengthen the sustainable management of Alaska’s largest salmon runs, Pacific halibut stocks, and other stocks that move through the pass and on to coastal river systems in Western Alaska. The network of receivers not only detects and records the passage of tagged fish, but also records environmental parameters such as temperature, salinity, wave and current activity. This information, which is currently not being monitored in a consistent on-going fashion in the region, is applicable to many different scientific disciplines and is vital to our understanding of the entire marine ecosystem.

Project: Pacific Salmon Treaty Implementation

Amount Requested: \$8,000,000

Recipients(s)/Location: States of Alaska, Washington, Oregon, and Idaho

Agency, Account: DOC, NOAA

Purpose: The requested funds would support activities necessary to meet Federal obligations under the U.S.-Canada Pacific Salmon Treaty. While the treaty created national commitments, the states, as managers of the salmon stocks and fisheries, are tasked with fulfilling many of the federal commitments established under the treaty. Funding for treaty implementation has been provided since 1985; however, the funding level has not kept pace with the growth in monitoring costs.

Project: Rural Drug and Alcohol Interdiction and Prosecution

Amount Requested: \$1,000,000

Recipients(s)/Location: State of Alaska

Agency, Account: DOJ, Grant Programs

Purpose: The requested funding would support the continued efforts to prevent the trafficking of illegal alcohol and drugs in rural Alaska through aggressive enforcement and community policing efforts. Specifically, this request would support increased training for Village Public Safety Offices (VPSOs), Village Police Officers, and other first responder emergency personnel; the acquisition of equipment to allow VPSOs to respond emergencies in a more efficient and effective manner; and an increased focus on the prosecution of offenders.

Project: Seal and Steller Sea Lion Biological Research

Amount Requested: \$3,200,000

Recipients(s)/Location: State of Alaska

Agency, Account: DOC, NOAA

Purpose: The requested funding would support ongoing research and monitoring of seal and Steller sea lion populations, which provide important subsistence resources to Alaska Natives, are top predators in a complex marine ecosystem, and interact with state and federal fisheries vital to the Pacific Northwest economy. Declines in these species have resulted in harvest restrictions on fisheries that provide millions of tons of food and are worth more than \$1 billion annually. Federal agencies responsible for managing these marine mammal populations, as provided for through the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) and the Endangered Species Act (ESA), have relied upon state collected research and data to assist them in meeting the requirements under both the MMPA and ESA. Funds requested would support the monitoring of ice seal populations, research on species delineation, and genetic research on harbor seals.

Project: Sexual Assault Forensic Nursing Services

Amount Requested: \$400,000

Recipients(s)/Location: Municipality of Anchorage, AK

Agency, Account: DOJ, Grant Programs

Purpose: The requested funding would support the Municipality's Forensic Nursing/Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) program. Funds would be used to provide professional support to victims and collect medical evidence to assist in the investigation and prosecution of sexual assault cases. SART has become the standard of care for sexual assault victims in Anchorage and other Alaska communities and is an essential service for prosecuting sexual assault cases. SART nurses trained in the forensic medical evaluation are critical to ensuring that evidence is collected and maintained legally and victims of sexual assault are treated with the appropriate compassion. From 2008-2009, the number of sexual assault victims seen by SART nurses increased 25 percent.

Project: Alaska Native Marine Mammal Co-Management

Recipient(s)/Location: Alaska Native Organizations, as authorized under section 119 of the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA)

Amount Requested: \$500,000 increase

Agency, Account: DOC, NOAA

Purpose: The MMPA preserves the rights of Alaska Natives to sustainably harvest marine mammals and authorizes Alaska Native Organizations (ANOs) to enter into cooperative agreements with NOAA to manage the conservation of marine mammal species. NOAA holds nine co-management agreements covering thirteen species or stocks of Alaska marine mammals. Funding is requested to fulfill co-management agreements with ANOs, as authorized under

section 119 of the Marine Mammal Protection Act. The requested appropriation would fund cooperative research, including harvest data collection, DNA sampling, and surveys.

Project: Construct landfill on Saint Paul Island

Amount Requested: \$2,744,000

Recipient(s)/Location: City of Saint Paul, AK

Agency, Account: DOC, NOAA

Purpose: The Pribilof Islands Transition Act (P.L. 106-652), which was to provide for the “orderly withdrawal of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration from the civil administration of the Pribilof Islands, Alaska,” authorized the Secretary of Commerce to provide assistance to the State of Alaska to develop or redevelop solid waste disposal facility on St. Paul Island. In fiscal year 2003, \$1 million was appropriated for preliminary design and construction. The requested funding would be used construct fencing and a new transfer facility and to install an incinerator. A new waste management facility is essential to meet the basic health and sanitation needs of the community.

Project: Yukon River Salmon Disaster Assistance

Amount Requested: \$10,000,000

Recipients(s)/Location: Affected fishing communities along the Yukon River, AK

Agency, Account: DOC, NOAA

Purpose: In January 2010, a federal fishery failure was declared for the Yukon River Chinook salmon fishery. Low returns of Yukon River Chinook salmon have led to dramatic reductions in commercial harvest and subsistence activities in many Alaska communities. In 2008, the commercial Chinook harvest was 89 percent below the 5-year average, and the fishery remained closed throughout 2009. The requested funding would be used to help mitigate the effects of the fishery failure on Alaska’s affected communities.

Project: Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund

Amount Requested: \$80,000,000

Recipients(s)/Location: States of Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and California

Agency, Account: DOC, NOAA

Purpose: Restoration and protection of Pacific salmon is vitally important to the economies of communities throughout the West, and in Alaska in particular. Funding provided through the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund is leveraged with the state and local resources to initiate thousands of salmon restoration and conservation projects. In 2008, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration noted in its report to Congress, “Through the PCSRF and efforts and contributions of state and tribal partners, progress is being made in the overall recovery and conservation of Pacific salmon and steelhead. Continued commitment, collaboration, and resources are required to achieve the overarching goal of full recovery and sustainability.”

In addition, I request that you include the following bill language:

Project: Repeal of the prohibition on federally recognized tribes in Alaska from receiving U.S. Department of Justice tribal courts and tribal Community Oriented Policing grants.

Amount Requested: \$0

Recipients(s)/Location: Tribes located in the Municipality of Anchorage, Matanuska-Susitna Borough, Kenai Peninsula Borough, the City and Borough of Juneau, the City and Borough of Sitka and the Ketchikan Gateway Borough, Alaska.

Agency, Account: DOJ, General Provisions

Purpose: Repeal a provision from the Fiscal Year 2004 omnibus appropriations bill that prohibits federally recognized tribes in certain areas of Alaska from receiving federal grants for tribal courts and Community Oriented Policing.

Requested Bill Language: "Section 112(a)(1) of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2004 (Public Law 108-199;118 Stat. 62) is repealed."

Project: Authority for the National Marine Fisheries Service to accept non-Federal funds

Amount Requested: \$0

Agency, Account: DOC, General Provisions

Purpose: The lack of adequate funding and staffing for the Minerals Management Service, the National Marine Fisheries Service, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for permitting and environmental analysis represents a significant bottleneck to energy development in Alaska, and may result in delays in the development of a critical component of America's domestic energy portfolio. Allowing NMFS to accept funds from private sources could reduce delays and move development forward.

Requested Bill Language: "Sec _____. For fiscal year 2011 and thereafter the National Marine Fisheries Service is authorized to accept land, buildings, equipment, and other contributions, including funding, from private sources, which shall be available until expended without further appropriation to conduct work associated with existing authorities, including support of the orderly exploration and development of Outer Continental Shelf resources."

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 item(s) that I have requested, consistent with the requirement 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