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November 16, 2012

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The Honorable Janet Napolitano  
Secretary  
Department of Homeland Security  
301 7th Street SW, Mail Stop 0501  
Washington, DC 20528-0150

Dear Secretary Napolitano,

Thank you for traveling to Alaska in August to see first-hand the unique opportunities and challenges my home state offers. Thank you also for sending several Department of Homeland Security (DHS) staff to the state to visit Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC) enrollment centers and ports in order to gain first-hand knowledge of the challenges the program creates in Alaska. As I'm sure you are aware, TWIC creates unique burdens in Alaska that need to be addressed as TWIC cards began to expire in October.

Alaska, a state one-fifth the size of the entire United States, currently has seven TWIC enrollment centers in Anchorage, Juneau, Ketchikan, Soldotna, Sitka, Unalaska, and Valdez. Of these communities, only three are on the road system. These limited locations in such a vast state require individuals to commute hundreds of miles in order to apply for and obtain a TWIC card. Moreover, with eighty percent of Alaska communities off the road system, many Alaskans have to fly to one of these offices, and the current application process requires at least two visits to a TWIC office. To further complicate the process, many of these TWIC offices are open only one day per week.

I believe it is essential that we find a way to alleviate the burden on these applicants as they begin to renew their TWIC cards. I am aware of the Department's plan to offer a one-time, 3 year renewal of a current TWIC card for \$60 and applaud this first step. However, more must be done. I would like to meet jointly with Administrator Pistole and Admiral Papp in order to discuss additional options that might be taken, including eliminating the second visit to a TWIC enrollment center, opening more enrollment centers in Alaska, and establishing a mobile enrollment capability in which TWIC contractors travel to other DHS, federal, state or local facilities in order to process applicants.

Thank you for your attention to this request. Please have staff for Administrator Pistole and Admiral Papp contact my Executive Assistant, Kristen Daimler, at (202) 224-5341 to schedule a meeting regarding these matters.

Sincerely,



Lisa Murkowski  
United States Senator

cc: The Honorable John Pistole  
Administrator  
Transportation Security Administration  
Department of Homeland Security  
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Admiral Robert J. Papp  
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