

LISA MURKOWSKI
ALASKA

COMMITTEES:
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES
RANKING MEMBER
APPROPRIATIONS
HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR,
AND PENSIONS
INDIAN AFFAIRS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0203

(202) 224-6665
(202) 224-5301 FAX

July 20, 2010

510 L STREET, SUITE 550
ANCHORAGE, AK 99501-1956
(907) 271-3735

101 12TH AVENUE, ROOM 216
FAIRBANKS, AK 99701-6278
(907) 456-0233

805 FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 105
KENAI, AK 99611-9104
(907) 283-5808

4079 TONGASS AVENUE, SUITE 204
KETCHIKAN, AK 99901-5526
(907) 225-6880

851 EAST WESTPOINT DRIVE, SUITE 307
WASILLA, AK 99654-7142
(907) 376-7665

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 Frank R. Lautenberg
Chairman
Homeland Security Subcommittee
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate

The Honorable George V. Voinovich
Ranking Member
Homeland Security Subcommittee
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate

Dear Chairman Inouye, Ranking Member Cochran, Chairman Lautenberg, and Ranking Member Voinovich,

I am writing to request that you include funding in the supplemental appropriations bill that will soon be brought to the Senate floor to replace the Sitka-based H-60 Coast Guard helicopter that crashed off of the coast of Washington state earlier this month, killing three Coast Guardsmen.

This is not an issue that only affects Alaska. In fact, the Coast Guard helicopter fleet in Alaska will be made whole again as the Coast Guard intends to move a helicopter from the lower 48 to temporarily cover the resource gap in our state. Unfortunately this shifting of resources, shifts the resource gap from Alaska to other regions of the country. This is a national problem, where an under resourced agency that is tasked to do so much with so few resources that it is quickly becoming overwhelmed.

I am very mindful of the nation's call to reduce spending in a time of increasing financial deficits, but within the budgetary framework, priority must be placed on investments to safeguard the safety and security of the American people and to ensure that our nation's military services are adequately prepared to address the current and future mission requirements. I am pleased that the Committee chose to provide resources in the version of the supplemental that previously passed the Senate to replace the H-60 helicopter that crashed in March of this year, and request that you provide \$18.4 million in additional funding to replace the H-60 helicopter that crashed earlier this month.

The recent spate of accidents involving Coast Guard aircraft is troubling to all of us, and I am committed to working with you and the agency to get a handle on and take action to correct the problem. Thank you for consideration of this request, and I certify that to the best of my

knowledge neither I, nor my immediate family, has a pecuniary interest in this congressionally directed spending item, consistent with the requirements of paragraph 9 of Rule XLIV of the Standing Rules of the Senate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lisa Murkowski". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "L" and "M".

Lisa Murkowski
United States Senator