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May 13, 2009

The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC

The Honorable Robert C. Byrd
Chairman
Subcommittee on Homeland Security
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC

The Honorable George Voinovich
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Homeland Security
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC

Dear Chairman Inouye, Ranking Member Cochran, Chairman Byrd, and Ranking Member Voinovich:

As you prepare the FY10 Homeland Security funding bill, I respectfully request that you include funding for the following programs, which are of particular importance to the residents of my state:

Project: Coast Guard Polar Ice Breakers

Amount Requested: \$72,500,000

Agency: Coast Guard

Purpose: The requested funding would be used to refurbish the *Polar Star* and begin design of a new polar class ice breaker.

Project: Assistance to Fire Fighters Grant Program

Amount Requested: \$565,000,000

Agency: FEMA

Purpose: This program provides grants to local fire departments for critical equipment, training, and apparatus.

In addition, I request you include funding for the following projects in my state:

Project: Humpback Creek Hydroelectric Project

Amount Requested: \$3,000,000

Recipients(s)/Location: Cordova Electric Association; Cordova, Alaska

Agency: FEMA

Requested Bill Language: “Provided, That of the total amount provided under this heading, \$3,000,000 shall be for a contribution under section 406 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5172) to the Cordova Electric Association for the completion of the reconstruction of the Humpback Creek Hydroelectric Project in Cordova, Alaska, which, notwithstanding any provision of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.) or a regulation promulgated under that Act, may be used to move upstream the diversion facility of the Humpback Creek Hydroelectric Project.”

Purpose: In October 2006 a flood destroyed Cordova Electric Association’s 1.25 megawatt Humpback Creek hydroelectric plant (Humpback Creek, FERC #P-8889). It should have been replaced by FEMA under normal emergency assistance, but since the diversion site needed to be moved 250 feet up creek to prevent future flood destruction, FEMA only provided \$4.7 million of the cost of repairing the lower reaches of the project. Even with \$4 million provided by the State of Alaska, the project is \$3 million short of completion.

Project: Kenai Peninsula Borough Flood Mitigation Measures

Amount Requested: \$1,500,000

Recipients(s)/Location: Kenai Peninsula Borough

Agency: FEMA

Purpose: Between 1986 and 2008 there were three major flood events in the Seward area that required federal disaster assistance and at least two smaller flood events that required state assistance. In 2003, with encouragement from FEMA, local Seward area citizens put together an initiative to form a flood service area. The initial purpose of the flood service area was to work across agency and political jurisdictions to produce a cohesive, long-term plan to reduce or eliminate flood risk to property, infrastructure, and lives. This planning effort resulted in a FEMA approved Flood Hazard Mitigation Plan. The requested funding would be used to implement measures identified in the Flood Hazard Mitigation Plan to protect lives, property, and public infrastructure in flood prone locations.

Project: Kivalina Evacuation Route and Action Plan

Amount Requested: \$1,000,000

Recipients(s)/Location: City of Kivalina, AK

Agency: FEMA

Purpose: The requested funding would be used to establish an emergency evacuation route and plan for the City of Kivalina. The plan and route will enable the city’s residents to remove themselves from danger during extreme weather events and tsunami threats.

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 items that I have requested, consistent with the requirements 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