

United States Senate

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May 15, 2009

The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
and Defense Appropriations Subcommittee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
and Defense Appropriations Subcommittee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Inouye and Senator Cochran:

As the Committee begins its consideration of the Fiscal Year 2010 Defense Appropriations Bill, I am writing to request support for the following programs:

Item Name: Clarification of Section 8147 of the Defense Appropriations Act of 2001 relating to the Alaska Territorial Guard.

Request: N/A

Account: N/A

Line: N/A

PE: N/A

Language: N/A (see below)

Intended Recipient: N/A

Address (City, State) where major portion of the work is to be performed: N/A

Purpose/Project Description: Section 8147(b) of the Defense Appropriations Act, 2001 required that the Secretary of Defense issue discharge certificates to members of the ATG. This language was understood by the Army to require that service in the ATG be regarded as active duty service in the Armed Forces of the United States and entitle the ATG member for retirement credits on account of that service. No member of the ATG received military retirement pay solely on account of ATG service. However, at least 26 were eligible under this practice to receive additional retirement pay as a result of ATG service. The Army terminated this practice in January 2009 in the wake of a legal opinion that ATG service is not creditable toward military retirement, notwithstanding the direction of section 8147(b). Following that reversal, the Secretary of the Army made a gratuitous payment representing two months of the increased retirement pay to the 26 individuals from Emergency and Extraordinary Expense funds. This payment was intended to cushion the economic blow to these elderly Alaskans and ran out on April 1, 2009. I request that the subcommittee consider bill language clarifying that service in the Alaska Territorial Guard during World War II is creditable toward military retirement.

Item Name: Pacific Alaska Range Complex – Access to Donnelly and Tanana Training Grounds

Request: \$5,000,000

Account: DWOEA O&M

Line: Uncertain

PE: OEA-3

Language: N/A

Intended Recipient: Alaska Railroad Corporation

Address (City, State) where major portion of the work is to be performed: Salcha, Alaska

Purpose/Project Description: This is a request for a congressionally directed spending item to the Alaska Railroad Corporation, 327 W Ship Creek Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska 99501 in the amount of \$5,000,000 to stabilize the bank of the Tanana River near Salcha, Alaska to enable the construction of a bridge that will provide access to the Donnelly and Tanana Training Grounds of the Pacific Alaska Range Complex by wheeled and tracked vehicles. The Office of Economic Adjustment may be an appropriate source of the funds. The Department of Defense has already invested \$116.2 million in this project which will provide year round access to these important joint maneuver areas. Vehicle access is presently limited to times of the year when the Tanana River is frozen to a depth that allows vehicle traffic to drive over the frozen river. The Alaska Railroad Corporation is an instrumentality of the State of Alaska.

Item Name: Alaska Aerospace Development Corporation – Kodiak Launch Complex

Request: \$5,000,000

Account: DWOEA O&M

Line: Uncertain

PE: OEA-3

Language: N/A

Intended Recipient: State of Alaska

Address (City, State) where major portion of the work is to be performed: Kodiak, Alaska

Purpose/Project Description: This is a request for a congressionally directed spending item to the Alaska Aerospace Development Corporation, 4300 B Street, Ste. 101, Anchorage, Alaska 99503 in the amount of \$5,000,000 which will be utilized along with other funding to construct Launch Pad 3 and a rocket motor storage facility at the Kodiak Launch Complex, Kodiak, Alaska. Launch Pad 3 is expected to predominantly serve Defense Department needs. The Office of Economic Adjustment may be an appropriate source of these funds for allocation to National Guard Bureau Cooperative Agreement W91ZRU0623038. The Alaska Aerospace Development Corporation is an instrumentality of the State of Alaska.

Item Name: P-Net Ballistic Missile Technology

Request: \$2,500,000

Account: Air Force RTD&E

Line: Uncertain

PE: 0603311f

Language: N/A

Intended Recipient: Venture Ad Astra

Address (City, State) where major portion of the work is to be performed: Anchorage, Alaska

Purpose/Project Description: This is a request for a congressionally directed spending item to the US Air Force, Ballistic Missile Technology Program, RTD&E, Advanced Technology Development Account PE 0603311F in the amount of \$2,500,000. The intended recipient is Venture Ad Astra, 1007 West Third Avenue, Suite 200, Anchorage, Alaska 99501. Advanced long range strike systems require enhanced precision location, guidance and navigation capability to produce desired effects. Current methods for timing-location accuracy are limited. P-Net enables greater accuracy of current strategic

systems through better timing synchronization. The funds will be used for Phase III of the P-Net program which would network several prototype hardware units, calibrated to 100 picoseconds, in real-time across a range of tens to hundreds of kilometers. Phase III will integrate level 3 software architecture into the hardware units. Venture Ad Astra is a private business.

Item Name: AutoScan Under Vehicle Inspection System

Request: \$1,500,000

Account: DW Nuclear & Conventional Security

Line: Uncertain

PE: 0603161D87

Language: N/A

Intended Recipient: Kachemak Research Development

Address (City, State) where major portion of the work is to be performed: Homer, Alaska

Purpose/Project Description: This is a request for a congressionally directed spending item to the Office of the Secretary of Defense, Nuclear and Conventional Security Account, 0603161D87, in the amount of \$1,500,000. The intended recipient is Kachemak Research Development, 59584 East End Road, Homer, Alaska 99603. AutoScan is a device used to inspect the undercarriage of vehicles ranging in size from passenger cars to semi-truck entering military facilities for items which may pose a security threat to the facilities and forces. These systems provide a clearer view of the undercarriage to security personnel and improve traffic flows at the gates. The funds will be utilized for product enhancements and beta testing of AutoScan Generation 2 and 3 architecture. Kachemak Research Development is a private business.

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