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Tony Knowles
PO Box 201902
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Dear Tony:

I have read with interest your comments about your desire to secure enough Democratic Senate votes to open ANWR. I take you at your word that you truly believe, in your heart of hearts, that you can convince enough Democrats to come to the side of Alaskans on this issue – even though reality has thus far shown Senate Democrats not only oppose Alaskans on this issue, they are willing to shut the Senate down to get their way.

We in the Congress and Senate are now preparing to engage in conference negotiations on the recently passed energy bill. Alaska cannot wait until 2005 to once again address the issue of opening ANWR – we must seize upon the opportunity we now have to open ANWR in this energy bill.

Putting all politics aside, and in the spirit of non-partisanship and moving the state forward, I invite you to use the resources of my office in Washington, DC to convince as many Democrats as possible to change their minds on ANWR now. I will provide whatever resources you need, including computer and communications equipment to help secure these votes for Alaska. As you probably know we need as many as 12 Democrats to change their minds if we hope to break their anti-Alaska filibuster on this issue, perhaps even more. This issue must be lobbied hard and it must be lobbied now.

While Alaska had a golden chance to have ANWR singed into law by President Clinton in 1995 he chose instead to veto the bill. Since then the Senate has taken several votes on the issue and Democrats continue to block all efforts. I am sure that during your tenure as Governor you were frustrated with the unwillingness of Senate Democrats to listen to the desires of Alaskans on this issue. Now is the time to convince them otherwise, and I invite you to join Ted, Don and me in fighting this battle to break the ANWR filibuster this year.

I look forward to working with you on this issue for the good of Alaska.

Cordially,

Lisa Murkowski
United States Senate