

Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations

(Note: Numbers are nationwide program funding levels.)

Investing in Communities and Economic Opportunities

- **Payment in Lieu of Taxes:** Provides \$500 million, full funding for the Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program. The PILT program provides monetary compensation to local governments throughout Alaska that contain federal lands that are not subject to state or local taxation. The revenue helps local governments provide vital services, such as firefighting and police protection, construction of public schools and roads, and search-and-rescue operations.
- **Arctic Priorities:** Supports the Arctic Council and directs \$550,000 to federal agencies to focus on economic opportunities in the region, as well as science and subsistence issues.
- **Increasing Public Access:** Forests Service recreation access programs are funded at a combined total of \$336 million. The bill provides more than \$4 million of additional funding to improve the Forest Service's capacity to issue additional special use permits, helping to expand recreation-based businesses in the Chugach and Tongass National Forests. These funds will also be used to maintain Forest Service recreation assets like cabins, trails, and campgrounds.
- **Alaska Red Cedar and Economic Timber Sales:** Continues current law that requires that timber sales in Alaska be economic, and requires that Alaska and West Coast sawmills be given the first right to process the timber, in order to keep these jobs in the U.S.
- **Forest Products:** Increases national funding for the Forest Service's timber program to \$368 million, which includes funding for the timber program on the Tongass to continue to support jobs and opportunities in the timber industry in Southeast Alaska.
- **Tongass National Forest Management:** Requires the Forest Service to gather sufficient data about the timing and availability of young-growth timber to ensure that any timber program in the Tongass provides for a viable timber industry in Southeast.
- **Mineral Resources and Critical Minerals Programs:** Supports recent executive and secretarial orders that will strengthen America's mineral security and directs land management agencies to streamline permitting and review of projects that will produce domestic sources of critical minerals. Includes \$7 million for a new critical minerals initiative that will improve topographic, geological, and geophysical mapping, in order to identify domestic deposits of critical minerals.

Protecting Land, Recreation, and Tourism

- **National Parks:** Addresses the National Park Service's maintenance backlog by increasing its construction and deferred maintenance budgets.

- **Denali National Park Road:** Requires the Park Service to submit a report on the feasibility of rerouting the park road, as well as options for reconstruction of the road, within 90 days of enactment.
- **Forest Inventory Analysis:** Maintains \$77 million in funding to partner with states to inventory forests across the nation, including interior Alaska, providing the State with important information about the condition of Alaska's forested lands, and dovetails into funding made available for education and management of Spruce bark beetle infestations that threaten Alaska communities with greater risk of devastating wildfires.
- **Contaminated Lands:** Dozens of exploration wells and core tests that were drilled decades ago remain abandoned in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska. This bill provides \$9.5 million for legacy well cleanup, and further directs the Bureau of Land Management to craft a long-term funding plan to complete the clean-up of the wells within ten years. Also directs BLM to coordinate with all responsible federal agencies to implement a long-term solution to comprehensive cleanup of contaminated Alaska Native lands.
- **The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF):** Funded at \$425 million, including \$124 million for the National Park Service stateside program, which helps state and local governments to improve public outdoor recreation opportunities.
- **North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA):** The bill includes \$43 million for the NAWCA, an increase of \$3 million, to help increase bird populations and wetlands habitat. NAWCA is a popular program among sportsmen and bird watchers.
- **Eider Research:** Includes language directing the Fish and Wildlife Service to continue its Eider Research Program, which occurs at the Alaska Sea Life Center.
- **Alaska Land Conveyance:** Includes funds to fulfill requirements to transfer lands to the State and Native Alaskans under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA), by providing \$22 million for Alaska Land Conveyance.
- **Gustavus Intertie:** Directs the National Park Service to consult the City of Gustavus on a regular basis as they issue contracts related to the hydraulic intertie at Glacier Bay National Park.
- **Ring of Fire Resource Management Plan:** Directs the Bureau of Land Management to swiftly finalize the plan amendment to the Ring of Fire Resource Management Plan, which addresses recreational and heli-ski access on lands near Haines.

Improving Air Quality, Water, and Wastewater

- **Alaska Native Villages Water Program:** Increases funding to \$25 million for the construction of new drinking water and wastewater systems, or the improvement of existing systems in rural Alaskan communities.

- **Assistance to Small and Disadvantaged Communities Water Program:** Provides \$30 million, a \$10 million increase, for a grant program to help bring basic water and sewer to communities in need.
- **State Water Revolving Funds:** Slightly increases funding for the Clean and Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Fund to \$2.85 billion, to help facilitate clean, safe drinking water in local communities. Funds can be used to address drinking water and wastewater infrastructure challenges, including addressing problems like lead content in water.
- **EPA Targeted Airshed Grants:** Increases funding to \$50 million to ensure that cities like Fairbanks are eligible for grants to support wood stove change-outs in order to help reduce air pollution.
- **Small Remote Incinerators:** Language is included to bar the EPA from prohibiting small, remote incinerators in Alaska while Alaskans work with the EPA to develop a rule that will work better to address Alaska's rural, unique needs.
- **Diesel Particulate Filters in Rural Alaska:** Includes language directing the EPA to re-examine its rule requiring diesel particulate filters on Tier III engines in rural Alaska and encourages them to exempt those filters from the requirement.
- **Transboundary Water Quality:** Allocates increased funding of \$1.5 million for transboundary river stream gauges, including for the Unuk River, and directs the U.S. Geological Survey to enter into a formal partnership with local tribes and other agencies to help develop a water quality strategy for transboundary rivers.

Fighting Government Overreach

- **Lead Bullets and Fishing Tackle:** Continues to prohibit the EPA from regulating lead content of ammunition and fishing tackle.
- **Fish Grinding:** Directs EPA to address a longstanding issue of unworkable standards for grinding of fish waste by exempting offshore processing vessels. Further instructs the agency to develop a policy to treat onshore seafood processors who use the best available technology as in compliance.
- **Kagalaska and Chirikof:** Prohibits the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) from using funds to conduct a costly caribou hunt on Kagalaska Island in the Aleutian Chain. The legislation also prohibits costly and impractical efforts to remove cattle from the remote Chirikof Island.

Improving Safety

- **Wildfire Prevention and Suppression:** Fully funds the 10-year average cost of our nation's wildfire suppression needs, and provides additional resources to the Forest Service and Department of the Interior in the event of a catastrophic wildfire season. The bill also provides increases for the Department of the Interior and the Forest Service to \$623 million

for preventative measures that can be made in advance of wildfire season, such as hazardous fuels reduction and fuel breaks.

- **3D Alaska Mapping:** Maintains funding for Alaska mapping initiatives at \$7.7 million, which will continue to help gather data to improve maps, enhancing safety for activities such as aviation.
- **USGS Earthquake and Volcano Hazards:** Allows Alaska to develop and enhance earthquake monitoring capabilities by providing increased funding of \$3 million. Includes \$31 million for the USGS volcano hazards program, including operation and maintenance funding for the acquisition of new equipment.

Prioritizing Health and Wellness

- **Fighting Opioids:** The bill establishes a new grant program through IHS which provides \$10 million to help tribes fight back against opioid abuse and \$7.5 million is continued through BIA to fight opioid addiction. To help address the problem of opioid over-prescription, language is included requiring a report on both federal and tribal pharmacy compliance with state Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs.
- **Native Children's Commission:** The bill provides \$400,000 for the Commission on Native Children created to identify the complex challenges facing Native children in Alaska and across the country by conducting an intensive study on issues such as high rates of poverty, unemployment, child abuse, domestic violence, crime, substance abuse, and dire economic opportunities. Senator Murkowski, along with Senator Heitkamp of North Dakota, sponsored legislation creating the Commission.
- **Village Built Clinics:** Increases funding to \$15 million for Village-Built Clinics, a program unique to Alaska that supports 150 healthcare clinics in rural areas which often serve as the only health facility in their respective regions.
- **Small Ambulatory Clinics:** Provides a \$10 million increase, totaling \$15 million, to make infrastructure improvements across the nation for providing healthcare delivery to American Indians and Alaska Natives. This year grants have been provide for Shishmaref, Ninilchik, New Kongiganak Village, Tok, and Tatitlek.
- **Zero Suicide Initiative:** Maintains funding at \$3.6 million for an IHS program aimed at preventing suicide by providing tools and support for organizations with patients receiving care. The initiative's main belief is that suicide deaths for people receiving care are entirely preventable.
- **Domestic Violence Prevention Initiative:** Maintains funding at \$4 million for an IHS initiative that promotes culturally appropriate prevention and treatment approaches to domestic and sexual violence from a community-driven context. This includes funding projects that provide victim advocacy, intervention, case coordination, policy development,

community response teams, sexual assault examiner programs, and community and school education programs. The Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association, Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation, Chugachmiut, Copper River Native Association, Kodiak Area Native Association, Maniilaq Association, Norton Sound Health Corporation, Southcentral Foundation, and Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium all receive funds through this initiative to continue efforts in addressing domestic violence and sexual assault in their communities.

- **Alcohol and Substance Abuse:** Provides \$245.6 million, a \$7.4 million increase, to IHS alcohol and substance abuse prevention programs, to focus on tribal youth and the incorporation of more holistic healthcare models. Programs within tribal communities to combat alcohol and substance abuse include inpatient and outpatient treatment, and rehabilitation services in both urban and rural settings.
- **Behavioral Health Integration and Facilities:** Increases funding to \$10 million to help facilitate integrated approaches between medical care, behavioral health, and tribal community organizations, in order to provide the entire spectrum of preventative care to improve outcomes in mental health, substance abuse, and physical ailments. Includes new funding, \$5 million, for demonstration projects for health facilities, pursuant to Indian Health Care Improvement Act.
- **Contract Support Costs:** Fully funds contract support costs, the operational and overhead costs in the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Indian Health Service, to ensure tribes have the necessary resources they need to deliver programs and services. This is especially important to Alaska because all healthcare for Alaska Natives is directly provided by tribal organizations. The account is continued as an indefinite appropriation so that if estimates made by the respective agencies are too low, funds are available to pay these costs without taking funds from other programs which reduce their capacity.

Providing Tribal Support

- **Tribal Court Funding (PL280):** Maintains \$13 million in funding to Public Law 280 states, such as Alaska, in order to help develop tribal court systems for communities.
- **Violence Against Women Act (VAWA):** Maintains \$2 million for training and specific VAWA tribal court needs.
- **Small and Needy Tribes:** Maintains \$4.4 million in funding to ensure all tribes have a base level of support to run tribal governments. Almost 90 percent of national funding goes to Alaska.
- **Tiwahe Initiative:** Maintains \$14 million in funding for the program to help communities design a comprehensive approach for the delivery of social services and justice programs. The Association of Village Council Presidents (AVCP) is a Tiwahe Initiative pilot site. The Emmonak Women's shelter also receives funding through this program.

- **Metlakatla Hatchery:** Maintains funding at \$545,000 to Metlakatla for a fish hatchery, fixing a historical error that previously deprived the tribe of their entitled funds.

Empowering Subsistence

- **Alaska Subsistence:** Maintains \$2.5 million for the Forest Service and the Fish and Wildlife Service to conduct activities relating to the Federal Subsistence Board, and collaborates with Alaska Natives to gather information, expand employment and capacity building, and assist subsistence users with law enforcement compliance activities, such as obtaining essential permits and meeting harvest reporting requirements.
- **Tribal Management:** Maintains funding at \$11.2 million for subsistence programs, extending critical pilot projects and ensuring additional opportunities for Alaska Native involvement in federal subsistence processes. Also includes support for Ahtna and Kuskokwim subsistence pilot projects.
- **Polar Bear Co-Management:** Directs the Fish and Wildlife Service to work and engage in meaningful consultation with Alaska Natives for their subsistence use of polar bears, including incorporating traditional knowledge.

Investing in Arts and Culture

- **National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH):** Increased funding is provided to support the arts through NEA and NEH, including support for NEA's the Healing Arts Program, developed by the NEA and the Department of Defense (DoD) to help our nation's wounded and injured service members and their families in their transition into civilian life.
- **Cultural Arts:** Provides increased funding to \$1 million, to continue an arts and cultural program with Sealaska and the Institute of American Indian and Alaskan Native Culture and Arts Development.
- **Native Handicrafts:** Encourages the Fish and Wildlife Service to do more to ensure that native handicrafts can continue to be sold.
- **Sealaska Cultural Sites:** Maintains funding of \$450,000 for Alaska Native programs to certify claims for historical places and cultural sites.

The Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee controls funding levels for federal agencies and departments including the Department of the Interior (DOI), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), Forest Service (FS), National Park Service (NPS), U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), and Indian Health Service (IHS). Murkowski, as Chairman, is able to write the Senate's annual appropriations bill for the Subcommittee.

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