

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 9, 2012

The Honorable Sean Parnell
Governor
Alaska State Capitol Building
P.O. Box 110001
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0001

Dear Governor Parnell:

I write in support of the Association of Village Council Presidents and its request for you to declare a fisheries disaster in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta. I request that you extend this disaster declaration to the Interior region of the Yukon River watershed as well.

During recent visits to the Interior and Kuskokwim regions of Alaska, and through meetings with leaders and residents of the area, I have seen and heard firsthand the hardship endured by residents due to lack of Chinook and other salmon on the Kuskokwim and Yukon Rivers this year. This crisis brought on by the lack of fish is compounded by high energy prices and rising costs of other goods and supplies.

Please give your full consideration to declaring a disaster in the Y-K Delta and in Interior Alaska. Once you declare a disaster at the state level, I can pursue federal assistance as I did in 2009. The food security of Alaska's rural citizens is of the utmost importance and action is needed now.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Mark Begich
United States Senator