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COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES  
COMMITTEE ON  
COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION  
COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

United States Senate  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 13, 2010

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski  
Chairwoman  
Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Commerce, Justice and Science  
142 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairwoman Mikulski:

I ask your support for language to provide funding of up to \$10.8 million for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for assistance to residents of the Yukon River drainage following two years of failed Chinook salmon returns. The fishery failure was declared a disaster by Commerce Secretary Gary Locke on January 15, 2010.

The failure of the Chinook returns in 2008 and 2009 resulted in severe impacts for residents of the Yukon. Commercial fishing seasons, one of the few sources of a cash income for many residents, were closed for both years and even fishing to meet villagers' subsistence needs was restricted. The lower Yukon River district is among the poorest counties in the nation.

I know you are in busy as chairwoman of the Appropriations Subcommittee for Commerce, Justice and Science and appreciate your attention to this matter. While I hope the full request could be met, I recognize the nation's current budget constraints and any funding close to that amount would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



Mark Begich  
United States Senator