

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

COMMITTEE ON
COMMERCE, SCIENCE AND TRANSPORTATION

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 15, 2009

The Honorable Daniel Inouye
Chairman
Subcommittee on Defense
Senate Appropriations Committee
Senate Dirksen Office Building, Room 122
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Vice Chairman
Subcommittee on Defense
Senate Appropriations Committee
Senate Dirksen Office Building, Room 122
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: National Guard Counterdrug State

Request: \$3,000,000

Account: Operations and Maintenance, Defense Wide

Line:

PE:

Language: N/A

Intended Recipient: Alaska National Guard Counterdrug Support Program

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

Purpose/Project Description The Alaska National Guard Counterdrug Support Program provides personnel, equipment and materials to assist federal, state and local law enforcement agencies in the detection, deterrence, and disruption of the production, cultivation, and trafficking of illegal narcotics in Alaska and nationwide. Through the Counterdrug Support Program, vast military resources are provided at no cost to the requesting agency. This program provides tailored intelligence support specific to law enforcement agencies.

Item Name: AutoScan Under Vehicle Inspection (UVIS)

Request: \$6,300,000

Account: Research, Development, Army

Line: 13

PE: 0603161D8Z

Suggested Recipient: Kachemak Research Development, Inc. (KRD)

Suggested Location of Performance (major portion of the work): Homer, Alaska

Purpose/Project Description: Product enhancements and beta testing of AutoScan generation 2 and 3 and architecture of an under vehicle inspection system (UVIS). AutoScan is a stationary UVIS that captures an image of the entire undercarriage of vehicles, ranging in size from passenger to semi-trucks. Because of the unique capabilities of AutoScan, vehicles do not need to maintain a constant speed as they travel across the system. This system is a significant advance in providing increased force protection at entry locations in any secure facility or installation.

Item: Expandable Rigid Wall Composite Shelter

Request: \$1,265,660

Account: Research, Development, Navy

Line: 181

PE: 0206623M

Suggested Recipient: Alkan Shelter, LLC

Suggested Location of Performance (major portion of the work): Fairbanks, Alaska

Purpose/Project Description: The United States Marine Corps and other Services now use 1980's technology rigid wall shelters with aluminum skins and a paper honeycomb core. These shelters are poorly insulated, have a limited roof and floor load, do not have ballistic protection, a roof that cannot be sandbagged, are highly subject to corrosion and can only be stacked six-high on ocean-going container ships. Additionally, the Department of Defense (DOD) does not have an EMI-hardened expandable rigid wall shelter. The new carbon fiber hybrid composite expandable shelter will provide a technologically superior structure that will correct the deficiencies of old 1980's technology in the existing shelters. These highly mobile expandable EMI hardened shelters will provide the USMC and DOD with a lightweight, rugged, thermally efficient, environmentally sound, and safer working environment for carrying out their sensitive electronics and calibration repair and maintenance missions.

Item: Future Tactical Truck Carbon Composite Shelter & Retrofit of Current Vehicle Shelters

Request: \$3,600,000

Account: Research, Development, Army

Line: 33

PE: 0603005A

Suggested Recipient: Alkan Shelter, LLC

Suggested Location of Performance (major portion of the work): Fairbanks, Alaska

Purpose/Project Description: The US Army has need of a new high-tech family of shelters for the new family of military ground vehicles and an improvement and replacement of existing shelters for the current fleet of vehicles. FY06 Defense Appropriations added \$2.132M for initial RDT&E. A Congressional add-item of \$3.6M is needed for the continuation of Phase 3 (RDT&E) to complete testing and prototype development of composite carbon fiber shelters for the current and future fleet of military tactical vehicles. During Phase 1 and 2 information was collected and analyzed for the shelter and vehicle container requirements for the Modular Logistics Transportation Technology (MLTT) program. Additionally, composite collapsible container, Quadcon shelter, and Shop Equipment Contact Maintenance (SECM) vehicle shelter prototypes were built. Phase 3 will be a follow-on project to build limited development quantities (estimated at 6) of the technically superior lightweight SECM shelter for tactical and field testing and to provide system development and demonstration.

Item: Flight/Hangar Deck Cleaner

Request: \$3,000,000

Account: Research, Development, Navy

Line: 206

PE: 0708011N

Suggested Recipient: Triverus

Suggested Location of Performance (major portion of the work): Palmer, Alaska

Purpose/Project Description: The Mobile Cleaning Reclaim Recycle Systems (MCRRS) primary role is to restore the coefficient of friction on Aircraft Carrier Non-skid coated surfaces. Cleaning effectiveness has exceeded existing methods by picking up and containing contaminants from the flight decks not recovered on a routine basis. The MCRRS can drastically reduce waste water generation and disposal foot print compared with the manual labor intensive SCRUBEX currently conducted. The MCRRS is a self contained cleaning system currently in development with the Department of the Navy.

Item: Industrial Supercritical Water Oxidation for Alaska

Request: \$5,000,000

Account: Research, Development, Air Force

Line: 18

PE: 0603112F

Suggested Recipient: Pacific Environmental Corporation (PENCO)

Suggested Location of Performance (major portion of the work): North Pole, Alaska;
Fairbanks North Star Borough, Alaska

Purpose/Project Description: In 2006, PENCO and General Atomics were partially funded by the Air Force to build Alaska's first RCRA-permitted Treatment, Storage, and Disposal Facility (TSDF). The TSDF would utilize industrial Supercritical Water Oxidation (iSCWO), an economical, environmentally friendly technology solution, to treat liquid hazardous wastes generated in Alaska. iSCWO is an ideal technology for processing liquid hazardous wastes and for becoming the primary treatment method for Alaska's first RCRA permitted treatment facility.

Item: Littoral Glider Applied Research

Request: 5,000,000

Account: Research, Development, Navy

Line: 13

PE: 0602747N

Suggested Recipient: Alaska Native Technologies, LLC

Suggested Location of Performance (major portion of the work): Anchorage, AK

Purpose/Project Description: The project would continue the development, for the Department of the Navy, the sensor design package that is installed on the Littoral Glider, and finalize the testing protocols in advance of the prototype development. The objective of this project phase is to accelerate testing and prototype development so the Littoral Glider can be made available to the Pacific Fleet as soon as possible.

Item: Permafrost Tunnel

Request: \$500,000

Account: Military Construction, Air Force

Line: 51

PE: 0603728A

Suggested Recipient: US Army Corps of Engineers

Suggested Location of Performance (major portion of the work): Fox, AK

Purpose/Project Description: US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) relies on an existing permafrost tunnel, operated by Cold Regions Research and Engineering Facility, for strategic communication and scientific exploration regarding permafrost impacts and infrastructure development in the Arctic supporting northern tier National requirements. The strategic importance of the Arctic to U.S. national defense and homeland security is articulated in national policy directives. DoD requires enhanced understanding of engineering implications of permafrost-related geophysical phenomenology for current and future strategic contingency operations.

Item: Toxin Guard Bio-Based Sensor

Request: 1,000,000

Account: Research, Development, Army

Line: 18

PE: 0602705A

Suggested Recipient: Port Graham Development Corporation

Suggested Location of Performance (major portion of the work): Palmer, AK; Port Graham, AK; Anchorage, AK

Purpose/Project Description: The Toxin Guard™ “bio-based” sensor is a method and apparatus of selective biological material detection incorporated onto flexible polymer films for packaging material and is covered under U.S. Patent No. 6,051,388, six other U.S. patents, and a total of 35 patents worldwide. When packaging material is protected with Toxin Guard™ a series of biochemical sensors printed onto the material, a visual signal will alert the consumer or inspector if specific pathogens, spoilage bacteria or contaminants are present. This specific project includes development of antibody based detection of Botulinum bacteria to protect smoked salmon as a food force for military use.

In addition, I request the following bill language be included:

Continuation of language of Sec. 8016 of the FY09 DOD Appropriations Act:

Section 8016 of the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2009 restricts the conversion (under OMB Circular A-76) to contractor performance of DOD activities or functions that are now performed by more than 10 DOD civilian employees. Identical or very similar restrictions have been included in Defense Appropriations bills for at least the last 15 years, and as with section 8016(b)(1) of last year's bill, those provisions have included exemptions for certain classes of contractors, including Native American tribal entities, Alaska Native Corporations (ANCs), and Native Hawaiian Organizations (NHOs). A number of tribal entities, ANCs, and NHOs provide services to DOD and other agencies under government contracts, and although A-76 is now used less frequently than it has in the past, our ANCs would like to continue to be exempted from the restrictions under 8016(a) so that they can take advantage of the government contracting opportunities that may arise where DOD agencies seek a conversion to contract performance.

I request the following continuation of bill language of Sec. 8016 of the FY09 DOD Appropriations Act:

SEC. 8016. (a) LIMITATION ON CONVERSION TO CONTRACTOR PERFORMANCE- None of the funds appropriated by this Act shall be available to convert to contractor performance an activity or function of the Department of Defense that, on or after the date of the enactment of this Act, is performed by more than 10 Department of Defense civilian employees unless the conversion is based on the result of a public-private competition that includes a most efficient and cost effective organization plan developed by such activity or function.

(b) EXCEPTIONS-

(1) The Department of Defense, without regard to subsection (a) of this section or subsections (a), (b), or (c) of section 2461 of title 10, United States Code, and notwithstanding any administrative regulation, requirement, or policy to the contrary shall have full authority to enter into a contract for the performance of any commercial or industrial type function of the Department of Defense that—

(A) is included on the procurement list established pursuant to section 2 of the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Act (41 U.S.C. 47);

(B) is planned to be converted to performance by a qualified nonprofit agency for the blind or by a qualified nonprofit agency for other severely handicapped individuals in accordance with that Act; or

(C) is planned to be converted to performance by a qualified firm under at least 51 percent ownership by an Indian tribe, as defined in section 4(e) of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450b(e)), or a Native Hawaiian Organization, as defined in section 8(a)(15) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637(a)(15)).

(2) This section shall not apply to depot contracts or contracts for depot maintenance as provided in sections 2469 and 2474 of title 10, United States Code.

(c) TREATMENT OF CONVERSION- The conversion of any activity or function of the Department of Defense under the authority provided by this section shall be credited toward any competitive or outsourcing goal, target, or measurement that may be established by statute, regulation, or policy and is deemed to be awarded under the authority of, and in compliance with, subsection (h) of section 2304 of title 10, United States Code, for the competition or outsourcing of commercial activities.

Amendment of Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Contract Cost Principles:

Finally, I request an amendment of the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Contract Cost Principles and Procedures rules (48 C.F.R. part 31) to permit Native American contractors (including Alaska Native Corporations, Native Hawaiian Organizations, and tribal entities) to include educational and training expenses directly in support of shareholders/tribal members (e.g., shareholder internship programs, educational scholarships for shareholders, and shareholder employment expense reimbursement) as allowable costs that may be included in the contractors' government contract rates.

The requested language has national significance because it will benefit Native American economic interests all over the United States. The current Defense Contract Audit Agency interpretation of the FAR is that Native American contractors may not include educational and training expenses directly in support of their shareholders or tribal members as allowable costs that may be included in their government contract rates. While this interpretation makes sense for other kinds of contractors, it flies in the face of federal law and policy mandating that Alaska Native Corporations and other Native American entities support the economic development and education of their shareholders and tribal members. This proposed amendment to the FAR rules will provide an exception that makes these kinds of expenses for Native American contractors allowable, thus enabling inclusion of costs that Native American firms are duty-bound to pay for.

Please include the following bill language:

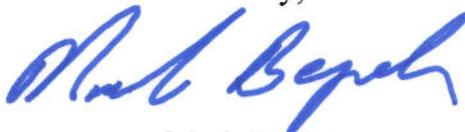
SEC. ____ . AMENDMENT TO FEDERAL ACQUISITION REGULATION.

The Administrator of the Office of Federal Procurement Policy shall implement an amendment to the Federal Acquisition Regulation at part 31 of title 48, Code of Federal Regulations, to specify that, with respect to a contract with a Native American entity (including an Alaska Native Corporation, Native Hawaiian Organization, or Indian tribal entity), the costs of education and training of the shareholders or tribal members of that entity shall be allowable costs. For purposes of the preceding sentence, the costs of education and training shall include costs related to internship programs, educational scholarships, and employment training expense reimbursement.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has a pecuniary interest in the congressionally directed spending item(s) that I have requested, consistent with the requirements of paragraph 9 of Rule XLIV of the Standing Rules of the Senate.

If you have any questions, please contact Leslie Ridle from my staff at 224-8485.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mark Begich". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mark" and last name "Begich" clearly distinguishable.

Mark Begich
United States Senator