

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 13, 2009

Senator Daniel K. Inouye
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
522 Hart Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Thad Cochran
Vice Chair
Committee on Appropriations
113 Dirksen Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Robert Byrd
Chair
Subcommittee Homeland Security
311 Hart Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator George Voinovich
Ranking Member
Subcommittee Homeland Security
524 Hart Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Inouye, Cochran, Byrd, and Voinovich:

Please accept this application for an appropriation in the Subcommittee on Homeland Security for:

Coast Guard Polar Ice Breakers

US Coast Guard

Alaska

\$72,500,000

Refurbish the cutter Polar Star and begin design of a new polar class breaker.

Of only Three U.S. Icebreakers in service, two are approaching the end of their serviceable life. These funds would support the refitting of one Polar-class icebreaker and support activities necessary for the next generation icebreaker class vessel. The U.S. capability to operate in the Arctic is diminishing at a time when demand for an expanded Coast Guard presents in the Arctic increases.

Humpback Creek Hydroelectric Reconstruction

Cordova Electric Cooperative

Cordova, Alaska

\$3,000,000

Reconstruct a Damaged Hydroelectric project Destroyed in a Flood

Reconstruct a damaged hydroelectric project (Humpback Creek, FERC # P-8889) destroyed in a flood. FEMA funds and a State Grant are not adequate to completely restore the project to service. The remainder must be paid out of the rate base, compounding already high electricity costs. The intake structure of the project must be moved upstream to meet stability requirements and assure a long project life of 50 years. This project directly offsets the use of diesel fuel which reduces air emissions, improves air quality, reduces the produced cost of electricity, reduces reliance on foreign fuel, and provides necessary energy to a locally growing on-shore fish processing industry which protects existing jobs and creates new jobs in the private sector.

Aniak Fire Department

City of Aniak

Aniak, Alaska

\$260,000

Repair the Aniak Fire Department and Repair Pumping System

The fire pumpers and pumping system need major repair. The firehouse structure needs repairs to keep it open. Currently the fire pumper is not working because of failure.

Kivalina Evacuation Route and Action Plan

City of Kivalina

Kivalina, Alaska

\$2,000,000

Establish an Emergency Evacuation Route for Kivalina

Project is to establish an emergency evacuation route and plan for the city of Kivalina. The plan and route will enable the city and its residents to safely remove themselves from danger when Kivalina is in the path of the extreme weather and vicious storms which are eroding the land the community is built upon.

Senator Begich
Page 3

Seward Flood Mitigation
Kenai Peninsula Borough
Seward, Alaska
\$3,000,000

Removal of Sediment/Gravel, Upgrade Culverts, Establish Drainage, Determine Safe Zones
Between 1986 and 2008 there have been three major flood events in the Seward area requiring federal disaster assistance and at least two smaller but still significant flood events requiring state assistance. In 2003, with encouragement from FEMA, local Seward area citizens put together an initiative to form a flood service area. The initial purpose of the flood service area was to work across agency and political jurisdictions to produce a cohesive, long term plan to reduce or eliminate flood risk to property, infrastructure and lives. This planning effort resulted in a FEMA approved Flood Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Once completed, planned maintenance should be able to sustain a stable condition into the future using existing income streams. The Kenai Peninsula Borough seeks Federal funding support to initiate the implementation of these strategies and plans.

Thank you for your consideration of these important projects.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has a pecuniary interest in any of the congressionally directed spending items I have requested, consistent with the requirements of paragraph 9 of Rule XLIV of the Standing Rules of the Senate. I further certify I have posted a description of the items requested on my official website, along with the accompanying justification.

Sincerely,



Mark Begich
United States Senator