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

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 6, 2009

President Barack Obama
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

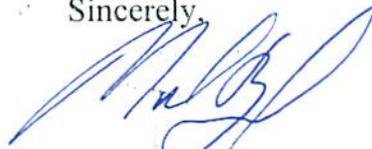
Dear President Obama:

As a result of ice jams in the aftermath of a long, cold winter, Alaska is currently suffering from serious flooding. Numerous communities along our Interior river systems, those along the Yukon, Kuskokwim, Kobuk, and Susitna rivers, are experiencing inundated homes, health clinics and other community facilities. The National Weather Service has declared flooding in the Yukon River community of Eagle the worst on record, with more than half of the residents displaced and the entire water supply compromised. Unfortunately, these floods are just in the early stages and all available information suggests it is going to get worse.

Today, Governor Sarah Palin declared a disaster in this area of Interior Alaska, and I understand she plans to request a federal disaster declaration soon. I am writing to strongly support that pending request. The Federal Emergency Management Administration is currently operating in our State Emergency Operations Center and standing by to respond when called. Having an area office from FEMA Region X located in Anchorage has significantly enhanced their ability to respond in a timely manner for such emergencies.

These isolated areas of Alaska make emergency response challenging and I want to make sure that we have all the resources possible at our disposal. Your immediate attention and declaration will help insure that we are doing everything humanly possible to protect life and property in Alaska.

Sincerely,



Mark Begich
United States Senator

Cc: FEMA Interim Administrator, Nancy Ward