

LISA MURKOWSKI
ALASKA

COMMITTEES:

ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES
CHAIRMAN

APPROPRIATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTERIOR,
ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES
CHAIRMAN

HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR,
AND PENSIONS

INDIAN AFFAIRS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0203

(202) 224-6665

(202) 224-5301 FAX

February 24, 2015

510 L STREET, SUITE 600
ANCHORAGE, AK 99501-1956
(907) 271-3735

101 12TH AVENUE, ROOM 329
FAIRBANKS, AK 99701-6278
(907) 456-0233

800 GLACIER AVENUE, SUITE 101
JUNEAU, AK 99801
(907) 586-7277

805 FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 105
KENAI, AK 99611-9104
(907) 283-5808

1900 FIRST AVENUE, SUITE 225
KETCHIKAN, AK 99901-6059
(907) 225-6880

851 EAST WESTPOINT DRIVE, SUITE 307
WASILLA, AK 99654-7142
(907) 376-7665

The Honorable David Balton
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Oceans and Fisheries
Bureau of Oceans and International Environment and Scientific Affairs
U.S. Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Ambassador Balton:

As you prepare for the Senior Arctic Official's meeting in Whitehorse, Yukon next week, I ask for your consideration of additional pan-Arctic projects that would fall under the United States' Arctic Council agenda theme of "Improving Economic and Living Conditions." In reviewing the United States' proposed agenda, I am concerned that there is an alarming lack of projects that are geared toward actual economic or resource development.

I note and appreciate the State Department's support for the *EALLU-Indigenous Youth, Climate Change and Food Culture* initiative within the Sustainable Development Working Group to promote a food-related business development with the Kawerak Reindeer Herders Association and the University of Alaska Fairbanks. I urge the Administration to support and advocate for additional projects like this and ask that you and your staff review the Alaska Arctic Policy Commission's Final Report recommendations for economic and resource development (page 17), specifically recommendations 1(b) with regard to resource production-related revenue sharing, 1(d) promoting entrepreneurship and enterprise development, and 1(f) relating to economic returns from maritime and fisheries activities. I recognize that time is short leading up to the SAO meeting, however, I strongly urge you to direct your staff, with their extensive knowledge of the Policy Commission's report, to present additional initiatives that would benefit those who live in the Arctic and promote actual economic development.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter. I look forward to working with you on these and other important Arctic related issues during the United States' chairmanship of the Arctic Council.

Sincerely,



Lisa Murkowski
United States Senator