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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