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10,000 years in our Traditional Homeland, Prince William Sound, the Copper River Delta, & the Gulf of Alaska

The Honorable Ted Stevens
United State Senate
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

February 21, 2008

Dear Senator Stevens:

We request your assistance with a serious matter in the budget. The proposed FY 2009 budget has eliminated the office of Subsistence Management. We request that you restore this funding. The budget line item for subsistence management in Alaska has not increased in nearly 10 years and now it is being eliminated. The work load for the program has increased substantially with the addition of game research projects and the partners program. We request your assistance with restoring this needed funding.

Our Tribe and the State of Alaska have significantly benefited from this program. For example, the Chinook escapement numbers on the Copper River, that we develop with this funding, are used in the Copper River salmon management plan. Funding for this critical research will be curtailed if this program is cut and we will lose the benefit of years of research, data and capacity building.

The single biggest benefit of this program is the partnership between the Federal Government, the State of Alaska and Alaska's Tribes. We have a long way to go, but this partnership is how the subsistence debate will be solved. We have to work together and this program provides the resources to do this. This program is a big success, let's keep it going.

Please restore the funding with an increase for inflation and the additional work load. The budget should be at least 15 million.

I am available to provide additional program information or answer questions that you or any committee members have about the benefits of the Office of Subsistence Management programs.

If you have any questions, please give me a call.

Sincerely:

NATIVE VILLAGE OF EYAK TRADITIONAL COUNCIL