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February 2, 2007

The Honorable Ted Stevens
United States Senate
522 Hart Building
Washington, DC 20510-0202

Dear Senator Stevens:

I would like to reaffirm the State of Alaska's commitment to participate in a land exchange with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the King Cove Corporation to secure road access between the Alaska communities of King Cove and Cold Bay. The exchange will provide a long needed safe, dependable, and economic access for residents. This exchange is described in the enclosed King Cove Road Negotiation Document that is the result of numerous meetings between the Alaska Regional Office of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, City of King Cove, Aleutians East Borough, King Cove Corporation, and the State of Alaska.


Specifically, the State of Alaska is offering to exchange all of the state owned land contained in Township 53 South, Range 85 West Seward Meridian and Township 54 South, Range 85 West Seward Meridian for an easement 100 feet in width, dedicated to the State of Alaska, through the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge and Wilderness. The easement will begin on the northeast side of Cold Bay and terminate on the southern boundary of the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge where it adjoins a state owned road. The exact location of the easement will be determined in consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The combined offers from the State of Alaska and King Cove Corporation would significantly increase the size of the Izembek and Alaska Peninsula National Refuges, while enhancing habitat values of the refuges. The exchange will require Congressional approval due to the federal land's Wilderness status. The exchange will also require approval by the Alaska Legislature as the state lands are likely of unequal (greater) fair market value than the federal lands being exchanged. The State of Alaska supports the efforts of the communities of King Cove and the Aleutians East Borough to secure federal legislation needed to advance this exchange forward.

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Thank you for your consideration on this important exchange; I look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sarah Palin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent loop at the end.

Sarah Palin
Governor

Enclosure

cc: U.S. Secretary of Interior Dirk Kempthorne
The Honorable Ernest Weiss, Mayor of the City of King Cove
The Honorable Stanley Mack, Mayor of the Aleutians East Borough
Acting Commissioner Marty Rutherford, Alaska Department of Natural
Resources
John Katz, Office of the Governor, Washington, D.C.
Tom Melius, Alaska Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service