

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4704

COMMITTEES:
APPROPRIATIONS
BUDGET
HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR,
AND PENSIONS
RULES AND ADMINISTRATION
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

May 6, 2011

Lisa Jackson, Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Ariel Rios Building
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Jackson,

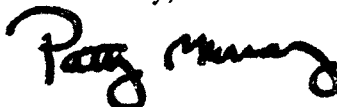
I write today to commend your decision to conduct a Watershed Assessment for Bristol Bay, Alaska and its precious natural resources. The Bristol Bay fishery is extremely important to many of my Washington state constituents and to the regional economy of the Pacific Northwest. I am frequently contacted by business owners, commercial fishermen, sport fishermen, hunters, religious leaders, and other Washington residents who care deeply about Bristol Bay and are concerned about protecting this vital source of jobs and food. Many of these groups and individuals depend on the health of Bristol Bay for their personal income and livelihoods.

The Watershed Assessment that your agency is undertaking to better understand how future large-scale development projects may affect water quality and Bristol Bay's salmon fishery is immensely important to inform future decision making. Any work to protect the long-term sustainability of the Bristol Bay fishery and habitat must be supported by sound science and public input.

Nearly a thousand residents of Washington State currently hold permits to fish in the Bristol Bay watershed. They in turn employ thousands more to crew and work in the fishery. Given that the Bristol Bay region plays an important role in the Washington state economy and is a source of jobs and economic stability, I will be closely following this assessment process and would appreciate timely updates from your staff on its progress.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I or my staff can be of assistance.

Sincerely,



Patty Murray
United States Senator

CC: Dennis McLerran, EPA Region 10 Administrator

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