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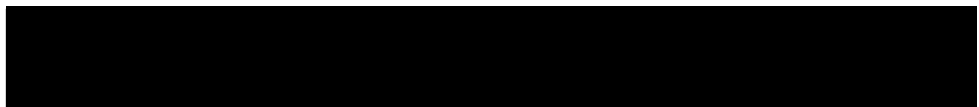
October 18, 2004

Dr. Arden Bement Jr.
Acting Director
National Science Foundation
4201 Wilson Blvd, Suite 1205
Arlington, VA 22230

Dear Dr. Bement,

I am very supportive of NSF's efforts with Arctic Research and am glad that Alaskan Businesses have benefited from contracts in support of these efforts. As you know, Alaska is the only state in the Union which contains an Arctic environment.

Since December 1999 VECO Corp. has been administering the Arctic Research Logistics Support Services Contract. VECO is an Alaskan company with its corporate headquarters in Anchorage. For the last 35 years VECO has pioneered Arctic infrastructure and service developments in Alaska and around the world. I am also told they have performed with very high marks in executing the present contract and urge you to give them every consideration when the contract comes up for renewal at the end of next month.



With best wishes,

Cordially,

Ted Stevens

*Rec'd 11/17/04
MWS*



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