

SARAH PALIN
GOVERNOR

GOVERNOR@GOV.STATE.AK.US



STATE OF ALASKA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
JUNEAU

P.O. Box 110001
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811-0001
(907) 465-3500
FAX (907) 465-3532
WWW.GOV.STATE.AK.US

March 31, 2009

Mr. President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

The purpose of this letter is to provide notice that I am accepting those funds available to Alaska under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) that create new, private-sector jobs and grow the economy.

I have invited public discussion through the legislative hearing process currently underway on ARRA funds that appear designed to grow government programs or that will impose federal mandates on our state. Federal stimulus funding must not add to strained state budgets nor diminish state sovereignty by imposing mandates, now or in the future.

The law requires that I certify that every dollar of these economic stimulus funds will create jobs and grow the economy. I take that charge seriously. I have forwarded requests to Alaska's legislators to appropriate hundreds of millions of dollars for infrastructure projects that truly create new private sector jobs and stimulate the economy. Through our budget process, I have also accepted additional Medicaid funds available through ARRA.

We will continue to review the assurances and requirements in the ARRA under each title for receipt of federal economic stimulus funds. The state legislature is fully engaged in the budget process and taking public testimony on the economic stimulus funding to determine the impacts on Alaska's budget now and in the future when the federal funds are no longer available. It is possible that there will be areas where the state will choose not to apply for funds. These instances will be addressed on a case by case basis.

Pursuant to Title XVI, section 1607 of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Pub. L. 111-5 (Feb. 17, 2009)) ("ARRA"), entitled "Additional funding Distribution and Assistance of Appropriate Use of Funds", I Sarah Palin, the Governor of the State of Alaska, hereby certify that:

- 1) The State of Alaska will request and use certain funds provided by ARRA with some decisions subject to final determinations based on the legislative appropriations process described in this letter; and
- 2) Funds will be used to create jobs and promote economic growth.

By making this certification, the State of Alaska is not committed now or in the future, to accept all of the federal funds.

The federal economic stimulus package will have profound, long-term implications. Our citizens and future generations must have the hope of meaningful work and economic opportunity, rather than be burdened by higher taxes and increased national debt.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Sarah Palin", with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Sarah Palin
Governor

cc: The Honorable Peter R. Orszag, Director, United States Office of
Management & Budget
The Honorable Lisa Murkowski, United States Senate
The Honorable Mark Begich, United States Senate
The Honorable Don Young, United States Congress
The Honorable Gary Stevens, President of the Senate, Alaska State Legislature
The Honorable Mike Chenault, Speaker of the House, Alaska State Legislature

Enclosure: Joint letter to Members of the Alaska Congressional Delegation

SARAH PALIN
GOVERNOR

GOVERNOR@GOV.STATE.AK.US



P.O. BOX 110001
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811-0001
(907) 465-3500
FAX (907) 465-3532
WWW.GOV.STATE.AK.US

STATE OF ALASKA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
JUNEAU

February 2, 2009

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
United States Senate
709 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mark Begich
United States Senate
825 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Don Young
United States Congress
2111 Rayburn Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Economic Stimulus Legislation

Dear Members of the Alaska Congressional Delegation:

We are writing to communicate our thoughts concerning the economic stimulus package now pending in Congress. We are working together on a formal resolution which we hope is adopted soon and will be provided to you upon passage.

You are well aware of the severe economic crisis confronting the nation and Alaska and you also realize that this situation is further exacerbated by high fuel costs and the loss of state revenues derived from petroleum production.

Inevitably, we have some differences of opinion about the size and scope of the stimulus package and how exactly federal funds should be allocated. However, we are all in agreement that economic stimulus should generate new private sector jobs immediately on projects that truly benefit the nation and the state in the long term. But, we caution that unrestrained spending, initiating new programs that the states may be asked to continue after the federal stimulus funding is gone, and borrowing hundreds of billions of dollars to pay for it may result in serious economic problems in the future.

We recognize that the President and Congressional leadership have made it clear that no specific projects or earmarks benefiting a particular state will be included in the stimulus bill. Accordingly, we want to work with you to make sure that the formula and grant programs ultimately enacted into law recognize unique conditions in Alaska. We recommend that the minimum guarantee provisions that protect rural and less populous states like Alaska continue to be used in these formulas.

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
The Honorable Mark Begich
The Honorable Don Young
February 2, 2009
Page 2

There are also timing considerations that should be addressed. For instance, new transportation projects may require an amendment of each state's statewide transportation improvement program or STIP. STIP amendments can take as long as 90 days under current requirements. In addition, the stimulus package should recognize that, in the case of Alaska and the northern tier states, transportation construction does not start until well into the spring. Alaska's short construction season and its many communities located in remote locations create special conditions that must be considered.

We support a formula for education funding that does not penalize those states who planned ahead by forward funding education. The formula should be based on state expenditures and needs, not on individual state budgeting practices.

The economic stimulus package will impose requirements on the states that receive federal funds. We are concerned the federal monies may come with the potential for increased state costs associated with these programs and create the expectation that the state will assume these costs once federal stimulus dollars are exhausted. The federal stimulus must not add to already strained state budgets, now or in the future.


Equally important, we should take this opportunity to highlight the conventional domestic energy sources that Alaska has to offer and find ways the federal government can help bring Alaska energy to consumers in the lower 48. Not only would increased Alaska production lessen our country's reliance on foreign supply, it would lessen the drain of U.S. jobs and dollars from our country and reduce our trade deficit.

The final stimulus package will have profound implications not only for the immediate future, but for future generations of Americans. We ask you to make sure that future generations benefit from this unprecedented level of government spending, rather than be burdened by the severe consequences of higher taxes and increased national debt. We look forward to working with you for the benefit of Alaska and the nation.

Thank you for considering our views.


Gary Stevens
Senate President
Alaska State Legislature


Sarah Palin
Governor


Mike Chenault
House Speaker
Alaska State Legislature