



*Office of U.S. Senator Mark Begich*

*Alaska :: April, 2011*

*Official website :: <http://begich.senate.gov>*

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# Appropriations

## Securing Funding for Alaska

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### Senator Begich's Record on Funding

- Senator Begich has helped to secure approximately \$900 million in earmark requests for Alaska communities.
- Senator Begich's focus has been on projects that protect health, safety and create jobs. For example, he secured \$2 million for the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium for Training Dental Health Care Workers, and \$10 million for the Denali Commission to support health and economic development.

### Senator Begich on the Earmark Moratorium

- In 2011, the leadership of the House of Representatives vowed to oppose earmarks and President Obama said he would veto any bill containing earmarks. As a result, Appropriations Committee Chairman Daniel Inouye announced a two-year moratorium on all earmarks.
- Senator Begich strongly disagrees with this position, because young states like Alaska have critical and unique needs. In the past two years, Alaskans have asked for about \$10 billion in earmark funding.
- Senator Begich believes that banning earmarks is not a serious deficit reduction strategy, and will disadvantage our state by ceding authority to executive agencies to fund Alaska projects.

### Senator Begich's Path Forward on Funding for Alaska

- Senator Begich will continue to advocate for projects for Alaska in as many bills as possible and within agencies.
- Senator Begich advises communities and non-profits to consider competitive grants and loans available through federal programs.
- To assist Alaskans and Alaska communities and organizations with federal funding, Senator Begich has appointed Clare Boersma in his Anchorage office to spearhead this effort. You can contact Clare at [Clare\\_Boersma@Begich.Senate.gov](mailto:Clare_Boersma@Begich.Senate.gov) or at 907-271-5915.



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