

LISA MURKOWSKI, Alaska, *Chairman*

JOHN BARRASSO, Wyoming
JAMES E. RISCH, Idaho
MIKE LEE, Utah
JEFF FLAKE, Arizona
STEVE DAINES, Montana
BILL CASSIDY, Louisiana
CORY GARDNER, Colorado
ROB PORTMAN, Ohio
JOHN HOEVEN, North Dakota
LAMAR ALEXANDER, Tennessee
SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO, West Virginia

MARIA CANTWELL, Washington
RON WYDEN, Oregon
BERNARD SANDERS, Vermont
DEBBIE STABENOW, Michigan
AL FRANKEN, Minnesota
JOE MANCHIN III, West Virginia
MARTIN HEINRICH, New Mexico
MAZIE HIRONO, Hawaii
ANGUS S. KING, Jr., Maine
ELIZABETH WARREN, Massachusetts

KAREN K. BILLUPS, STAFF DIRECTOR
PATRICK J. McCORMICK III, CHIEF COUNSEL
ANGELA BECKER-DIPPMANN, DEMOCRATIC STAFF DIRECTOR
SAM E. FOWLER, DEMOCRATIC CHIEF COUNSEL

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6150

WWW.ENERGY.SENATE.GOV

June 10, 2015

The Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW – MS 7729
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Jewell:

I write to bring your attention to the latest medevac carried out in King Cove, Alaska.

The Aleutians East Borough has informed my office that on the afternoon of Wednesday, May 20, a female resident entered the King Cove medical clinic suffering from internal organ issues. Despite medical staff's recommendation that she be transported to Anchorage for needed care, fog and poor visibility forced her to remain in King Cove overnight. The woman, in her 80s, could not be safely medevaced until the following morning – almost 20 hours later.

This marks the 8th medevac carried out in King Cove in 2015 alone. It also marks the 24th medevac carried out since you rejected a short, one-lane, gravel, non-commercial road to connect King Cove with the all-weather airport in nearby Cold Bay on December 23, 2013.

In the 534 days since your decision, and despite your public promises, the Department of the Interior has not taken a single concrete step to protect the health and safety of the nearly 1,000 Alaskans who live in this isolated community. Instead we have seen only efforts to justify your initial decision, and to deflect from the facts and history of this dangerous situation.

I reiterate my long-standing request that you make King Cove one of your top priorities – and that you reverse your decision to reject a life-saving road for the community.

Sincerely,



Lisa Murkowski
United States Senator