



**City of Gustavus, Alaska**

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Senator Lisa Murkowski  
510 L Street, Suite 600  
Anchorage, AK 99501-1956

Re: CDS Request – Addressing for the Unorganized Borough

Dear Senator Murkowski,

I am writing to express my strong support for a Congressionally Directed Spending request related to the creation of standardized physical addresses for communities within Alaska's Unorganized Borough. This initiative is critical to improving public safety and ensuring equitable access to essential services for all Alaskans.

The Unorganized Borough encompasses 70% of Alaska's landmass and ranks fourth highest in population. Despite its size and significance, this area lacks the local governance needed to provide basic services, such as assigning physical addresses. As a result, Alaska remains the last state in the nation to move toward implementing Next Generation 9-1-1 (NG9-1-1), a modern and resilient emergency communication system. The absence of consistent statewide addressing is a significant barrier to this progress.

In many parts of the country, 9-1-1 calls arrive at dispatch centers, also known as public safety answering points (PSAP), accompanied by location data that allows emergency responders to act quickly. However, in most of Alaska's PSAPs, calls are routed to a 10-digit phone number without any associated location information. This infrastructure deficiency, compounded by the lack of standardized address data, leads to delays in response times as telecommunicators and first responders work to identify the emergency caller's location. Such delays can be the difference between life and death in critical situations.

The benefits of a physical addressing system extend far beyond emergency response. Accurate addresses are essential for utility services, government workflows, Census accuracy, disaster recovery funding applications, and compliance with federal initiatives like the Real ID.

I strongly urge you to support this vital initiative and allocate the necessary funding to bring standardized addressing to the Unorganized Borough. This investment will save lives and bring Alaska into alignment with national standards for 9-1-1 and emergency response.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Sally McLaughlin

Mayor, City of Gustavus, Alaska