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January 15, 2007

Governor Sarah Palin  
State of Alaska, Office of the Governor  
P.O. Box 110001  
Juneau, AK 99811-0001

Dear Governor Palin:

For many years the United States Arctic Research Commission has pushed for improving the base maps of Alaska which fall far behind the standard of maps prepared by the USGS for the lower 48 states.

We are very encouraged that the State has developed a digital mapping initiative through a Memorandum of Agreement between the Departments of Military and Veterans Affairs, Natural Resources, and the University of Alaska. We have been supportive of the State's request for federal funding in this area and further have been working with the Civil Applications Committee led by USGS to try to declassify data which could shortcut the process of developing digital elevation model for the State of Alaska.

I write you to let you know the work we have done in parallel with the State's efforts; and to let you know how important it has been for the State to have some "skin in the game". The \$2 Million appropriation last year was a very important talking point to bring the Federal Agencies to the table. I am hopeful the State can continue to make this commitment to mapping in years to come.

Shortly I hope to have an opportunity to sit with you to discuss Arctic Research's common efforts with the State of Alaska. I very much appreciated the kind words you gave research during your inaugural speech.

With best regards,

Sincerely,

  
Mead Treadwell, Chair