

GOVERNOR
Sean Parnell
of Alaska

SENATOR
Lisa Murkowski
of Alaska

SENATOR
Mark Begich
of Alaska

CONGRESSMAN
Don Young
of Alaska

March 19, 2013

The Honorable Kenneth L. Salazar
Secretary
United States Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Salazar,

We would like to express our gratitude for the U.S. Department of the Interior's leadership in accelerating the acquisition of statewide topographic mapping for Alaska. This issue remains a critical priority for the State of Alaska and the Alaska Congressional delegation.

As you are aware, Alaska lacks an adequate digital base map. Accurate topographic data is essential to support responsible economic development, the preservation of human life, and the advancement of scientific research in Alaska. The importance of mapping Alaska is underscored by the state's key role in America's energy future, as well as the need to understand climate change impacts. Good data is also a must for disaster preparedness and response.

We were pleased that your department, thanks in large part to the leadership of officials like Anne Castle, partnered with the State of Alaska to host a roundtable of senior federal executives last June to focus on Alaska mapping. That roundtable led to the establishment of an executive committee of federal officials tasked with overseeing the federal role in completing the mission of mapping Alaska.

We look forward to further progress through the interagency Executive Committee and continued coordination between the federal agencies and the State of Alaska to advance mapping in Alaska to modern standards.

Sincerely,



Sean Parnell
Governor



Lisa Murkowski
U.S. Senator



Mark Begich
U.S. Senator



Don Young
Congressman