



Email to:

jamie_o'connor@murkowski.senate.gov

maya_becker@murkowski.senate.gov

Re: NERRS PAC Funding

Date: Nov. 29, 2021

Dear Jamie and Maya:

Thank you for your previous assistance and the support that Senator Murkowski has provided the Kachemak Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve as well as the NERRS program. House and Senate CJS subcommittees are now conferencing to reconcile the appropriation bill and the Kachemak Bay Research Reserve Community Council asks for your help in **requesting report language that waives the state match in FY22 for the NERRS PAC line in the Commerce/NOAA/NOS section of the bill.** As you know, for FY 22, we are asking for \$42M for NERRS Operations (including all sites, not just KBNERR) and \$10M in NERRS PAC.

PAC funds are important to our reserve, especially since we now have need for additional office, laboratory, and meeting space as well as retrofitting modular, space to provide bunkhouse and education/visitor center spaces. Both PAC and operations funds to our reserve support local jobs. At KBNERR, we know that having good research facilities in Homer is a big attraction to researchers and students (and their funding) from out-of-state who want to work in Kachemak Bay because of its relatively pristine conditions. Moreover, the 2018-21 studies on the economic contributions of the NERRS found that these funds also contribute to local revenues that help our state's economy and support its recovery.

On behalf of the KBRR Community Council, I thank you for considering our request to ask the conference committee to waive the state match required for PAC in FY22. Because of the distance and cost, we are not able to have a presence in Washington DC to track these important budgetary matters and therefore rely on NERRA to represent us in these matters. So please consider their contacts with you as our voice.

Sincerely,

Chair, KBRN Community Council