

United States Senate

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September 9, 2008

Mr. Timothy Smith
President
Nome Fishermen's Association
PO Box 396
Nome, Alaska 99762

Dear Tim:


Thank you for your letter and your questions about the process by which western Alaskan villages select boards of directors under the Community Development Quota (CDQ) program. I appreciate your concern about the need for meaningful village participation in the CDQ program.

In 1992, I helped establish the CDQ program to promote fisheries related economic development in Western Alaska. Over the years, I have worked to strengthen and stabilize the program.

As you know, the statutory language does not specifically address many of the issues you have raised. I understand that NOAA has been working on regulations to further define eligibility requirements for boards of directors. My staff and I will continue to follow this process and I will keep your comments in mind, should Congress modify administrative aspects of the CDQ program.

With best wishes,

Cordially,


TED STEVENS

*I did discuss
this briefly
when I was in
Nome recently*