

United States Senate

March 4, 2025

The Honorable Russell Vought
Director, The Office of Management and Budget
725 17th Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20503

Director Vought:

I am writing to bring to your attention the disparity in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Pacific Ocean Division's (POD) budgetary allocation from the General Regulatory Fund. The current funding distribution is disproportionately low relative to the POD's vast geographic scope, unique regulatory challenges, and the new directives outlined in Executive Order (EO) 14153, "*Unleashing Alaska's Extraordinary Resource Potential*," issued by President Trump regarding expedited permitting and infrastructure development in Alaska.

As outlined in the EO, the Secretary of the Army, through the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, is required to provide all necessary assistance to the Governor of Alaska in facilitating the clearing and maintenance of transportation infrastructure. Additionally, the Assistant Secretary must immediately review, revise, or rescind any agency action that may delay or hinder critical projects in Alaska. These directives underscore the need for enhanced regulatory support within the USACE Alaska District to ensure compliance with the EO and to facilitate the expeditious review and approval of infrastructure projects.

Despite its vast jurisdiction and the critical nature of its projects, the Alaska District, through the POD, receives the lowest regulatory budget among all districts. The fiscal year (FY) 2024 allocation of the General Regulatory Fund starkly illustrates this disparity:

- **POD Allocation:** \$7,934,986
 - **Alaska District Allocation:** \$6,813,967
- **Comparison with Other Divisions:**
 - South Atlantic Division (SAD): \$48,571,342
 - North Atlantic Division (NAD): \$32,466,611
 - Mississippi Valley Division (MVD): \$28,168,531
 - Great Lakes and Ohio River Division (LRD): \$28,565,130
 - North Western Division (NWD): \$29,652,779

Given the enormous landmass and challenging environmental conditions in Alaska, as well as the state's dependence on timely infrastructure improvements, it is imperative that the Alaska District receive an allocation that reflects this regulatory workload and responsibilities. Unlike other districts with smaller geographic areas and more predictable regulatory processes, the Alaska District manages complex permitting for remote and environmentally sensitive projects vital to economic development and national security.

The current budget limits the Alaska District's ability to fulfill its mission efficiently. Increasing the POD's regulatory allocation would ensure compliance with the EO, support the economic growth of Alaska, and maintain national infrastructure priorities. I urge the OMB to consider revising its funding strategy to reflect the unique needs of the POD and the Alaska District, thereby aligning its resources with national directives and strategic infrastructure imperatives. Thank you for your attention to this matter. I welcome the opportunity to discuss this request further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dan Sullivan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Dan Sullivan
United States Senator

Cc: Ms. Robyn S. Colosimo, *Senior Official Performing the Duties of the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works)*