

United States Senate

November 17, 2017

Admiral Paul F. Zukunft
Commandant
United States Coast Guard
2703 Martin Luther King, Jr. Ave., SE
Washington, D.C. 20593

Dear Admiral Zukunft:

We are writing about the future homeporting of the remaining Fast Response Cutters (FRC) slated for Alaska. We are deeply concerned with the impact your decision may have on operational response time to national security threats, fisheries enforcement, and search and rescue missions. As you consider what locations to place the remaining four FRCs, we would like to voice our strong support for ensuring the broadest operational coverage possible. These assets should be homeported where they can be most responsive to the needs of Alaskans and the nation.

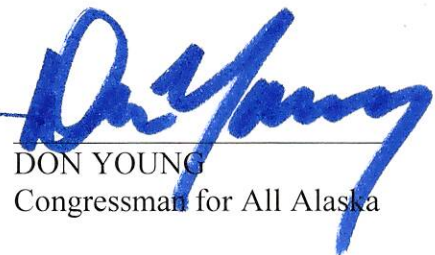
Alaska is a maritime state with more ocean coastline than all of the other U.S. states combined; nearly 1 in 7 Alaskans are employed in the commercial seafood industry and depend on the ocean for their livelihood. As it stands, Alaska is receiving only six FRCs to replace seven Island Class Patrol Boats and as you know, the tyranny of distance is the bane of any search and rescue case; a matter of hours can mean the difference between life and death.

Given the uniquely vast and challenging maritime operating area that Alaska presents, please keep in mind the end user of the selfless service the Coast Guard provides: the mariner in need. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


LISA MURKOWSKI
United States Senator

DAN SULLIVAN
United States Senator


DON YOUNG
Congressman for All Alaska