

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

August 10, 2023

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Mr. Secretary,

I write in strong support of the University of Alaska Anchorage's (UAA) application to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Center of Excellence for Homeland Security in the Arctic program. Under the proposal, UAA will use cutting-edge approaches to conduct critical research needed to prepare for and implement an effective response to the challenges DHS faces in the Arctic domain.

As you likely know, the Arctic is warming three times faster than the rest of the world. This rapidly changing environment challenges our ability to ensure homeland security. The 2021 DHS Strategic Approach for Arctic Homeland Security recognizes these challenges and states that DHS needs to develop new operational capabilities to meet its multifaceted mission. Arctic capability development is also a critical security pillar in the National Strategy for the Arctic Region. Interdisciplinary research and corresponding technology transfer are often the only ways to overcome challenges in developing new technological and operational capabilities to secure the homeland.

I understand that UAA proposes bringing together a team of experts to research and develop new Arctic capabilities relevant to homeland security. The research outcomes will also be transferred and transitioned to DHS component agencies and industrial partners. Notably, the proposal will embrace the traditional knowledge of Alaska Native and other Indigenous communities in its work.

Thank you for your attention to this important proposal. Consistent with applicable law, policy, and guidance, I respectfully request that you consider UAA's application and all Alaskan applications. I ask that you keep my office apprised of the outcome.

Sincerely,



Mary Sattler Peltola
Member of Congress