

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 49

To provide for a leasing program within the Coastal Plain, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 5, 2017

Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself and Mr. SULLIVAN) introduced the following bill;
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Nat-
ural Resources

A BILL

To provide for a leasing program within the Coastal Plain,
and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
5 “Alaska Oil and Gas Production Act”.

6 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for
7 this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Definitions.
- Sec. 3. Leasing program for land within the Coastal Plain.
- Sec. 4. Lease sales.
- Sec. 5. Grant of leases by the Secretary.
- Sec. 6. Lease terms and conditions.

- Sec. 7. Coastal Plain environmental protection.
 Sec. 8. Rights-of-way and easements across the Coastal Plain.
 Sec. 9. Conveyance.
 Sec. 10. Clarification of western coastal boundary of ANWR.
 Sec. 11. Local government impact aid and community service assistance.

1 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

2 In this Act:

3 (1) COASTAL PLAIN.—The term “Coastal
 4 Plain” means the area generally described in appen-
 5 dix I to part 37 of title 50, Code of Federal Regula-
 6 tions (as in effect on the date of enactment of this
 7 Act), except that the westerly boundary of the
 8 Coastal Plain shall be the boundary depicted on the
 9 map prepared under section 10(b).

10 (2) DEFORMED AREA OF THE COASTAL
 11 PLAIN.—The term “Deformed Area of the Coastal
 12 Plain” means the approximately 1,125,000 acres
 13 generally depicted as the deformed area south and
 14 east of the Marsh Creek anticline in figure 2 of fact
 15 sheet 0028–01 of the United States Geological Sur-
 16 vey.

17 (3) FINAL STATEMENT.—The term “Final
 18 Statement” means the final legislative environmental
 19 impact statement on the Coastal Plain, dated April
 20 1987, and prepared pursuant to—

21 (A) section 1002 of the Alaska National
 22 Interest Lands Conservation Act (16 U.S.C.
 23 3142); and

1 (B) section 102(2)(C) of the National En-
 2 vironmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C.
 3 4332(2)(C)).

4 (4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
 5 the Secretary of the Interior.

6 (5) UNDEFORMED AREA OF THE COASTAL
 7 PLAIN.—The term “Undeformed Area of the Coastal
 8 Plain” means the approximately 375,000 acres gen-
 9 erally depicted as the undeformed area north and
 10 west of the Marsh Creek anticline in figure 2 of fact
 11 sheet 0028–01 of the United States Geological Sur-
 12 vey.

13 **SEC. 3. LEASING PROGRAM FOR LAND WITHIN THE COAST-**
 14 **AL PLAIN.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—

16 (1) AUTHORIZATION.—Congress authorizes the
 17 exploration, leasing, development, production, and
 18 transportation of oil and gas in and from the Coast-
 19 al Plain.

20 (2) ACTIONS.—The Secretary shall take such
 21 actions as are necessary—

22 (A) to establish and implement, in accord-
 23 ance with this Act, a competitive oil and gas
 24 leasing program that will result in an environ-
 25 mentally sound program for the exploration, de-

development, and production of the oil and gas resources of the Coastal Plain; and

(B) to administer this Act through regulations, lease terms, conditions, restrictions, prohibitions, stipulations, and other provisions that—

(i) ensure, to the maximum extent practicable, that the oil and gas exploration, development, and production activities on the Coastal Plain will result in no significant adverse effect on fish and wildlife, fish and wildlife habitat, subsistence resources, and the environment; and

(ii) require the application of the best commercially available technology for oil and gas exploration, development, and production to all exploration, development, and production operations under this Act in a manner that ensures the receipt of fair market value by the public for the mineral resources to be leased.

(b) REPEAL.—

(1) REPEAL.—Section 1003 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 3143) is repealed.

1 (2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of
 2 contents contained in section 1 of that Act (16
 3 U.S.C. 3101 note) is amended by striking the item
 4 relating to section 1003.

5 (c) COMPLIANCE WITH REQUIREMENTS UNDER CER-
 6 TAIN OTHER LAWS.—

7 (1) COMPATIBILITY.—For purposes of the Na-
 8 tional Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of
 9 1966 (16 U.S.C. 668dd et seq.)—

10 (A) the oil and gas preleasing and leasing
 11 program authorized by this Act, and any activi-
 12 ties authorized under this Act, including explo-
 13 ration, development, production, and transpor-
 14 tation activities, shall be considered to be com-
 15 patible with the purposes for which the Arctic
 16 National Wildlife Refuge was established; and

17 (B) no further findings or decisions shall
 18 be required to implement the preleasing and
 19 leasing program and the activities authorized
 20 under this Act.

21 (2) COMPLIANCE WITH NEPA FOR OIL AND GAS
 22 PRELEASING AND LEASING AND PRODUCTION FROM
 23 THE FIRST LEASE SALE.—

24 (A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph
 25 (3), the oil and gas preleasing and leasing pro-

1 gram authorized by this Act, including the first
2 lease sale conducted under the leasing program
3 and exploration, development, production, and
4 transportation activities associated with any
5 lease issued under the first lease sale, shall not
6 constitute a major Federal action for purposes
7 of the National Environmental Policy Act of
8 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

9 (B) NO FURTHER REVIEW REQUIRED.—

10 Subject to paragraph (3), no further review
11 under the National Environmental Policy Act of
12 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) shall be required
13 to implement the oil and gas preleasing and
14 leasing program authorized by this Act, includ-
15 ing the first lease sale conducted under the
16 leasing program and exploration, development,
17 production, and transportation activities associ-
18 ated with any lease issued under the first lease
19 sale.

20 (3) COMPLIANCE WITH NEPA FOR OTHER AC-
21 TIONS.—

22 (A) IN GENERAL.—Before conducting the
23 second lease sale under this Act, the Secretary
24 shall prepare an environmental impact state-
25 ment in accordance with the National Environ-

1 mental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et
2 seq.) with respect to the actions authorized by
3 this Act that are not referred to in paragraph
4 (2).

5 (B) IDENTIFICATION AND ANALYSIS.—
6 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, in
7 carrying out this paragraph, the Secretary shall
8 not—

9 (i) identify nonleasing alternative
10 courses of action; or

11 (ii) analyze the environmental effects
12 of those courses of action.

13 (C) IDENTIFICATION OF PREFERRED AC-
14 TION.—Not later than 2 years after the date of
15 enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall iden-
16 tify only a preferred action and a single leasing
17 alternative for the second lease sale authorized
18 under this Act.

19 (D) EFFECT OF COMPLIANCE.—Notwith-
20 standing any other provision of law, compliance
21 with this paragraph shall be considered to sat-
22 isfy all requirements for the analysis and con-
23 sideration of the environmental effects of pro-
24 posed leasing under this Act.

1 (d) RELATIONSHIP TO STATE AND LOCAL AUTHOR-
2 ITY.—Nothing in this Act expands or limits any State or
3 local regulatory authority.

4 (e) LIMITATION ON CLOSED AREAS.—The Secretary
5 shall not close land within the Coastal Plain to oil and
6 gas leasing or to exploration, development, or production
7 except in accordance with this Act.

8 (f) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 1 year after the
9 date of enactment of this Act, in consultation with the
10 State of Alaska, North Slope Borough, Alaska, the City
11 of Kaktovik, Alaska, and the Arctic Slope Regional Cor-
12 poration, the Secretary shall promulgate such regulations
13 as are necessary to carry out this Act.

14 (g) AUTHORIZATION ON KIC–ASRC PRIVATE
15 LAND.—Exploratory drilling, leasing, development, and
16 production of oil and gas resources are authorized on the
17 private land owned by the Kaktovik Inupiat Corporation
18 and the Arctic Slope Regional Corporation described in
19 Appendix 2 of the agreement between the Arctic Slope Re-
20 gional Corporation and the United States, dated August
21 9, 1983.

22 **SEC. 4. LEASE SALES.**

23 (a) IN GENERAL.—Land may be leased pursuant to
24 this Act to any person qualified to obtain a lease for depos-

1 its of oil and gas under the Mineral Leasing Act (30
2 U.S.C. 181 et seq.).

3 (b) PROCEDURES.—The Secretary shall, by regula-
4 tion, establish procedures for—

5 (1) receipt and consideration of sealed nomina-
6 tions for any area in the Coastal Plain for inclusion
7 in a lease sale;

8 (2) the holding of lease sales after the nomina-
9 tion process described in paragraph (1); and

10 (3) public notice of and comment on designa-
11 tion of areas to be included in, or excluded from, a
12 lease sale.

13 (c) LEASE SALE BIDS.—Bidding for leases under
14 this Act shall be by sealed competitive cash bonus bids.

15 (d) ACREAGE MINIMUM IN FIRST SALE.—For the
16 first lease sale under this Act, the Secretary shall offer
17 for lease those tracts the Secretary considers to have the
18 greatest potential for the discovery of hydrocarbons, tak-
19 ing into consideration nominations received pursuant to
20 subsection (b)(1), but in no case less than 300,000 acres.

21 (e) TIMING OF LEASE SALES.—The Secretary
22 shall—

23 (1) not later than 1 year after the date of en-
24 actment of this Act, conduct the first lease sale
25 under this Act;

1 (2) not later than 18 months after the date on
2 which the first lease sale is conducted under para-
3 graph (1), conduct a second lease sale under this
4 Act; and

5 (3) conduct additional sales at appropriate in-
6 tervals if sufficient interest in exploration or devel-
7 opment exists to warrant the conduct of the addi-
8 tional sales.

9 **SEC. 5. GRANT OF LEASES BY THE SECRETARY.**

10 (a) IN GENERAL.—Upon payment by a lessee of such
11 bonus as may be accepted by the Secretary, the Secretary
12 shall grant to the highest responsible qualified bidder in
13 a lease sale conducted pursuant to section 4 a lease for
14 any land on the Coastal Plain.

15 (b) SUBSEQUENT TRANSFERS.—No lease issued
16 under this Act may be sold, exchanged, assigned, sublet,
17 or otherwise transferred except with the approval of the
18 Secretary.

19 **SEC. 6. LEASE TERMS AND CONDITIONS.**

20 (a) IN GENERAL.—An oil or gas lease issued pursu-
21 ant to this Act shall—

22 (1) provide for the payment of a royalty of not
23 less than 12½ percent of the amount or value of the
24 production removed or sold from the lease, as deter-

1 mined by the Secretary in accordance with regula-
2 tions applicable to other Federal oil and gas leases;

3 (2) provide that the Secretary, after consulta-
4 tion with the State of Alaska, North Slope Borough,
5 Alaska, the City of Kaktovik, Alaska, and the Arctic
6 Slope Regional Corporation, may—

7 (A) close such portions of the Deformed
8 Area of the Coastal Plain to exploratory drilling
9 activities as are necessary to protect caribou
10 calving areas and other species of fish and wild-
11 life; and

12 (B) close, on a seasonal basis only, such
13 portions of the Undeformed Area of the Coastal
14 Plain to exploratory drilling activities as are
15 necessary to protect caribou calving areas and
16 other species of fish and wildlife;

17 (3) require that each lessee of land within the
18 Coastal Plain shall be fully responsible and liable for
19 the reclamation of land that is adversely affected in
20 connection with exploration, development, produc-
21 tion, or transportation activities within the Coastal
22 Plain conducted by the lessee or by any of the sub-
23 contractors or agents of the lessee;

24 (4) provide that the lessee may not delegate or
25 convey, by contract or otherwise, the reclamation re-

1 sponsibility and liability described in paragraph (3)
2 to another person without the express written ap-
3 proval of the Secretary;

4 (5) provide that the standard of reclamation for
5 land required to be reclaimed under this Act shall
6 be, to the maximum extent practicable—

7 (A) a condition capable of supporting the
8 uses that the land was capable of supporting
9 prior to any exploration, development, or pro-
10 duction activities; or

11 (B) on application by the lessee, to a high-
12 er or better standard, as approved by the Sec-
13 retary;

14 (6) contain terms and conditions relating to
15 protection of fish and wildlife, fish and wildlife habi-
16 tat, subsistence resources, and the environment as
17 required under section 3(a)(2); and

18 (7) provide that each lessee, and each agent
19 and contractor of a lessee, shall use their best ef-
20 forts to provide a fair share of employment and con-
21 tracting for Alaska Natives and Alaska Native Cor-
22 porations from throughout the State of Alaska, as
23 determined by the level of obligation previously
24 agreed to in the Federal Agreement and Grant
25 Right-of-Way for the Trans-Alaska Pipeline issued

1 on January 23, 1974, in accordance with section 28
2 of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 185) and the
3 Trans-Alaska Pipeline Authorization Act (43 U.S.C.
4 1651 et seq.).

5 (b) PROJECT LABOR AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary,
6 as a term and condition of each lease under this Act, and
7 in recognizing the proprietary interest of the Federal Gov-
8 ernment in labor stability and in the ability of construction
9 labor and management to meet the particular needs and
10 conditions of projects to be developed under the leases
11 issued pursuant to this Act (including the special concerns
12 of the parties to those leases), shall require that each les-
13 see, and each agent and contractor of a lessee, under this
14 Act negotiate to obtain a project labor agreement for the
15 employment of laborers and mechanics on production,
16 maintenance, and construction under the lease.

17 **SEC. 7. COASTAL PLAIN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION.**

18 (a) NO SIGNIFICANT ADVERSE EFFECT STANDARD
19 TO GOVERN AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES ON THE COASTAL
20 PLAIN.—In accordance with section 3, the Secretary shall
21 administer this Act through regulations, lease terms, con-
22 ditions, restrictions, prohibitions, stipulations, or other
23 provisions that—

24 (1) ensure, to the maximum extent practicable,
25 that oil and gas exploration, development, and pro-

1 duction activities on the Coastal Plain will result in
2 no significant adverse effect on fish and wildlife, fish
3 and wildlife habitat, subsistence resources, and the
4 environment;

5 (2) require the application of the best commer-
6 cially available technology for oil and gas explo-
7 ration, development, and production on all new ex-
8 ploration, development, and production operations;
9 and

10 (3) ensure that the maximum surface acreage
11 covered in connection with the leasing program by
12 production and support facilities, including airstrips
13 and any areas covered by gravel berms or piers for
14 support of pipelines, does not exceed 2,000 acres on
15 the Coastal Plain.

16 (b) SITE-SPECIFIC ASSESSMENT AND MITIGATION.—
17 The Secretary shall require, with respect to any proposed
18 drilling and related activities on the Coastal Plain, that—

19 (1) a site-specific environmental analysis be
20 made of the probable effects, if any, that the drilling
21 or related activities will have on fish and wildlife,
22 fish and wildlife habitat, subsistence resources, and
23 the environment;

24 (2) a plan be implemented to avoid, minimize,
25 and mitigate (in that order and to the maximum ex-

1 tent practicable) any significant adverse effect iden-
2 tified under paragraph (1); and

3 (3) the development of the plan occur after con-
4 sultation with—

5 (A) each agency having jurisdiction over
6 matters mitigated by the plan;

7 (B) the State of Alaska;

8 (C) North Slope Borough, Alaska;

9 (D) the City of Kaktovik, Alaska; and

10 (E) the Arctic Slope Regional Corporation.

11 (c) REGULATIONS TO PROTECT THE COASTAL PLAIN
12 FISH AND WILDLIFE RESOURCES, SUBSISTENCE USERS,
13 AND THE ENVIRONMENT.—Before implementing the leas-
14 ing program authorized by this Act, the Secretary shall
15 prepare and promulgate regulations, lease terms, condi-
16 tions, restrictions, prohibitions, stipulations, or other
17 measures designed to ensure, to the maximum extent prac-
18 ticable, that the activities carried out on the Coastal Plain
19 under this Act are conducted in a manner consistent with
20 the purposes and environmental requirements of this Act.

21 (d) COMPLIANCE WITH FEDERAL AND STATE ENVI-
22 RONMENTAL LAWS AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS.—The
23 regulations, lease terms, conditions, restrictions, prohibi-
24 tions, and stipulations for the leasing program under this
25 Act shall require—

1 (1) compliance with all applicable provisions of
2 Federal and State environmental law (including reg-
3 ulations); and

4 (2) implementation of and compliance with—

5 (A) standards that are at least as effective
6 as the safety and environmental mitigation
7 measures, as described in items 1 through 29
8 on pages 167 through 169 of the Final State-
9 ment;

10 (B) reclamation and rehabilitation require-
11 ments in accordance with this Act for the re-
12 moval from the Coastal Plain of all oil and gas
13 development and production facilities, struc-
14 tures, and equipment on completion of oil and
15 gas production operations, except in a case in
16 which the Secretary determines that those fa-
17 cilities, structures, or equipment—

18 (i) would assist in the management of
19 the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge; and

20 (ii) are donated to the United States
21 for that purpose; and

22 (C) reasonable stipulations for protection
23 of cultural and archaeological resources.

24 (e) ACCESS TO PUBLIC LAND.—The Secretary
25 shall—

1 (1) manage public land in the Coastal Plain in
 2 accordance with subsections (a) and (b) of section
 3 811 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Con-
 4 servation Act (16 U.S.C. 3121); and

5 (2) ensure that local residents shall have rea-
 6 sonable access to public land in the Coastal Plain for
 7 traditional uses.

8 **SEC. 8. RIGHTS-OF-WAY AND EASEMENTS ACROSS THE**
 9 **COASTAL PLAIN.**

10 For purposes of section 1102(4)(A) of the Alaska Na-
 11 tional Interest Lands Conservation Act (16 U.S.C.
 12 3162(4)(A)), any rights-of-way or easements across the
 13 Coastal Plain for the exploration, development, produc-
 14 tion, or transportation of oil and gas shall be considered
 15 to be established incident to the management of the Coast-
 16 al Plain under this section.

17 **SEC. 9. CONVEYANCE.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section
 19 1302(h)(2) of the Alaska National Interest Lands Con-
 20 servation Act (16 U.S.C. 3192(h)(2)), to remove any cloud
 21 on title to land, and to clarify land ownership patterns,
 22 the Secretary shall—

23 (1) to the extent necessary to fulfill the entitle-
 24 ment of the Kaktovik Inupiat Corporation under sec-
 25 tions 12 and 14 of the Alaska Native Claims Settle-

1 ment Act (43 U.S.C. 1611, 1613), as determined by
2 the Secretary, convey to that Corporation the sur-
3 face estate of the land described in paragraph (1) of
4 Public Land Order 6959, in accordance with the
5 terms and conditions of the agreement between the
6 Secretary, the United States Fish and Wildlife Serv-
7 ice, the Bureau of Land Management, and the
8 Kaktovik Inupiat Corporation, dated January 22,
9 1993; and

10 (2) convey to the Arctic Slope Regional Cor-
11 poration the remaining subsurface estate to which
12 that Corporation is entitled under the agreement be-
13 tween that corporation and the United States, dated
14 August 9, 1983.

15 (b) LAND ADJACENT TO AND SOUTHWEST OF
16 ANWR.—As a condition of receipt of the benefits under
17 this Act, the State of Alaska shall convey to the United
18 States all right, title, and interest in and to the approxi-
19 mately 598,767 acres generally depicted as “Proposed
20 Trade Land” on the map entitled “Proposed ANWR Ex-
21 change”, prepared by the State of Alaska Department of
22 Natural Resources, and dated July 2015.

1 **SEC. 10. CLARIFICATION OF WESTERN COASTAL BOUND-**
 2 **ARY OF ANWR.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—The western coastal boundary of
 4 the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is defined—

5 (1) as the boundary originally established as
 6 part of the Alaska Arctic Wildlife Range under Pub-
 7 lic Land Order 2214, dated December 6, 1960 (25
 8 Fed. Reg. 12598); and

9 (2) consistent with the order of the case styled
 10 United States v. Alaska (521 U.S. 1 (1997)).

11 (b) REVISED MAP.—As soon as practicable after the
 12 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall prepare
 13 a revised map of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge that
 14 reflects the western coastal boundary of the Arctic Na-
 15 tional Wildlife Refuge described in subsection (a).

16 **SEC. 11. LOCAL GOVERNMENT IMPACT AID AND COMMU-**
 17 **NITY SERVICE ASSISTANCE.**

18 (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF FUND.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—There is established in the
 20 Treasury a fund to be known as the “Coastal Plain
 21 Local Government Impact Aid Assistance Fund”
 22 (referred to in this section as the “Fund”).

23 (2) USE.—Amounts in the Fund may be used
 24 only to provide financial assistance in accordance
 25 with subsection (b).

1 (3) DEPOSITS.—Subject to paragraph (4), of
2 amounts of revenues payable to the State of Alaska
3 under section 35 of the Mineral Leasing Act (30
4 U.S.C. 191) that are derived from rents, bonuses,
5 and royalties from Federal leases and lease sales au-
6 thorized under this Act—

7 (A) \$28,000,000 shall be deposited in the
8 Fund for the first fiscal year for which amounts
9 are received by the United States from Federal
10 leases and lease sales authorized under this Act;
11 and

12 (B) \$7,000,000 shall be deposited in the
13 Fund for each fiscal year thereafter.

14 (4) LIMITATION ON DEPOSITS.—The total
15 amount in the Fund may not exceed \$28,000,000.

16 (5) INVESTMENT OF BALANCES.—The Sec-
17 retary of the Treasury shall invest amounts in the
18 Fund in interest-bearing securities of the United
19 States.

20 (b) FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall use
22 amounts available from the Fund to provide timely
23 financial assistance to North Slope Borough, Alaska,
24 the City of Kaktovik, Alaska, and any other bor-
25 ough, municipal subdivision, village, or other com-

1 munity in the State of Alaska that is directly im-
2 pacted by exploration for, or the production of, oil
3 or gas on the Coastal Plain under this Act, as deter-
4 mined by the Secretary.

5 (2) USE OF ASSISTANCE.—Financial assistance
6 provided under this subsection may be used only
7 for—

8 (A) planning for mitigation of the potential
9 effects of oil and gas exploration and develop-
10 ment on environmental, social, cultural, rec-
11 reational, and subsistence values;

12 (B) implementing mitigation plans and
13 maintaining mitigation projects;

14 (C) developing, carrying out, and maintain-
15 ing projects and programs that provide new or
16 expanded public facilities and services to ad-
17 dress needs and problems associated with the
18 effects described in subparagraph (A), including
19 firefighting, police, water, waste treatment,
20 medivac, and medical services; and

21 (D) the establishment by North Slope Bor-
22 ough, Alaska, of a coordination office in the
23 City of Kaktovik, Alaska—

24 (i) to coordinate with and advise de-
25 velopers on local conditions of, impacts on,

1 and the history of the areas utilized for de-
2 velopment under this Act; and

3 (ii) to provide to the Committee on
4 Natural Resources of the House of Rep-
5 resentatives and the Committee on Energy
6 and Natural Resources of the Senate an
7 annual report that describes the status of
8 coordination between developers and the
9 communities affected by development
10 under this Act.

11 (c) APPLICATION.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—To receive assistance under
13 subsection (b), a community described in subsection
14 (b)(1) shall submit to the Secretary an application
15 for assistance, in such form and under such proce-
16 dures as the Secretary may prescribe by regulation.

17 (2) NORTH SLOPE BOROUGH COMMUNITIES.—A
18 community located in North Slope Borough, Alaska,
19 may apply for assistance under this section either di-
20 rectly with the Secretary or through the North Slope
21 Borough.

22 (3) APPLICATION ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary
23 shall work closely with and assist North Slope Bor-
24 ough, Alaska, and other communities eligible for as-

1 sistance under this section in developing and submit-
2 ting applications under this subsection.

3 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
4 authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary from the
5 Fund \$7,000,000 for each fiscal year to provide financial
6 assistance under this section.

○