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Governor Bill Walker
STATE OF ALASKA

February 2, 2016

The Honorable Julián Castro
Secretary
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
4517 Seventh Street SW
Washington, DC 20410

Dear Mr. Secretary:

On behalf of all Alaska residents, particularly the residents of our climate-change impacted communities and the hardworking staff that compiled Alaska's HUD National Disaster Resilience Competition submittal, I am compelled to express my dismay that none of our projects were listed in your agency's January 21, 2016 grant award announcement.

President Obama personally visited our great state in 2015 to elevate the nation's concerns about global climate change and the imminent threat our coastal communities face due to warming temperatures and rising water levels. Here in Alaska, as the President pointed out, we are experiencing immediate threats to life, limb, and property, and to traditional communities and ways of living. The President flew over Kivalina, one of our more endangered communities, to witness the situation himself.

Alaska's HUD Resilience application advanced a number of excellent and worthy projects in hopes that progress could be made to reduce the exposure. None were granted funding.

The United States currently chairs the eight-nation Arctic Council. This leadership position provides an opportunity to increase awareness of the threats posed to arctic regions. The fact that *not one* Alaska project scored high enough to warrant any of the available \$1 billion HUD Resilience grant simply astonishes me.

I am requesting, at your earliest dispatch, our application score matrix so our team can fully assess the apparent deficiencies in our submittal. Following our review, I intend to advance our concerns and needs with yourself and others in the Obama administration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bill Walker".

Bill Walker
Governor

cc: The Honorable Lisa Murkowski, United States Senate
The Honorable Dan Sullivan, United States Senate
The Honorable Don Young, United States House of Representatives
Denis McDonough, Chief of Staff, President Obama
Mark Brzezinski, Executive Director, Arctic Executive Steering Committee
Brigadier General (AK) Laurie Hummel, The Adjutant General, Alaska Department of
Military and Veterans Affairs
Julie Kitka, President, Alaska Federation of Natives
The Honorable John Korta, Mayor, City of Galena
The Honorable Wilbur Hootch, Sr., Mayor, City of Emmonak
The Honorable Blanche Okbaok-Garnie, Mayor, City of Teller
Andy Patrick, President, Newtok Traditional Council
Newtok Village Council
Wesley Okbaok, President, Teller Traditional Council
Gretchen Kameroff, President, Emmonak Village
First Chief Jenny Pelkola, Galena Village