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PRESIDENT OF ICELAND

Barney Baccin
28th November 2005

Senator Lisa Murkowski
709 Hart Senate Building
Washington D.C., 20510

Dear Senator Murkowski

It was a profound pleasure to meet you on 8th November and as always it was a productive and enjoyable event. I appreciate very much your hospitality and friendship. Let me also tell you how happy it made me to hear how well you received your husband's idea of visiting Iceland. As you both know we have excellent fly fishing over here and you and your family would be welcomed as my personal guests and the President's Guest House would be at your disposal.

I enjoyed discussing with you our common interest in the development of the New North: energy, policy responses to climate change and the prospective cooperation in utilising the geothermal potential of Alaska. I hope that the cooperation already in place between Alaska and Iceland in this field will continue strongly and offer my full support to that endeavour.

I will be meeting the leaders of the Icelandic bank, Islandsbanki, which is already active in Alaska, and has defined itself as a leading bank in the world in financing geothermal energy projects and discuss the evolution of geothermal energy in Alaska.

Our meeting also highlighted the opportunities that a comprehensive approach to transport, fisheries, energy and economic development in the North could bring for global security, international cooperation and the understanding of the way the earth works.

Let me also emphasise the point I made about the opportunities that lie in the North for a positive and progressive dialogue between the US and Russia. I am enclosing with this letter a special analysis of this: "The New North: A venue for US-Russian partnership in the 21st century". I think it is an excellent idea that the leaders of these two countries could have a meeting in Alaska.

I would also be interested to discuss with you further some of the ideas for cooperation between Icelandic and American scientists on carbon capture techniques and clean energy development.

I could also see us having an interesting cooperation leading up to the International Polar Year in 2007-2008 and appreciate your support for the idea that the assembly of the Northern Research Forum would take place in Alaska in 2008.

with friendship,
Ólafur Ragnar Grímsson

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