

# *Mary Sattler Peltola*

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**2024 CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE:  
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**



# 2024 Candidate Questionnaire: U.S. House of Representatives

## Introduction

### NAME

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## Subsistence

### 1. WHAT IS YOUR PERSPECTIVE ON THE CURRENT DUAL FEDERAL-STATE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM FOR SUBSISTENCE HUNTING AND FISHING IN ALASKA?

Since my election to Congress, I've worked to make fish and fishing policy the issue of national importance it deserves to be. We cannot be satisfied until our nets are full. We are still a long way out, but I believe we will see abundance again.

Due to the growing reality of climate change, our oceans are changing, and the way we manage our marine resources needs to adapt to meet the emerging ecological conditions. That is why I sponsored the FISH Act to build on the success of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act by increasing fisheries resilience through coordinated data collection, innovative management tools, and increased collaboration between agencies and regional fishery management councils.

### 2. DO YOU BELIEVE THE DUAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM ADEQUATELY SERVES ALASKA NATIVE COMMUNITIES?

Native communities need and deserve more. In Congress, I believe we can uplift Native communities by working in a bipartisan fashion, such as my work introducing the bipartisan Bycatch Reduction and Mitigation Act and the Bottom Trawl Clarity Act. I also introduced the FISH Act to create a Fisheries and Ecological Resilience program to help increase fisheries resilience and mandate a study on U.S. seafood competitiveness in international markets (as well as a separate study to assess federal programs that support domestic seafood production). This legislation will modernize Alaska fisheries and upgrade our fishery health for future generations.

### 3. HOW WOULD YOU SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF A NATIVE-LED MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK TO ENSURE ALASKA NATIVE COMMUNITIES HAVE A STRONGER ROLE IN MANAGING THEIR SUBSISTENCE RESOURCES?

Native-led communities must have a seat at the table when these decisions are made. I bring my experience as an Alaska Native to Washington to fight for our rights as Natives, and I am actively working on legislation to support Alaska Native perspectives in the fisheries management council process. I am also open to exploring other ways to support our Native people as they engage in management systems in order to ensure continued access to subsistence resources now and for our future generations.

### 4. DO YOU SUPPORT RECOGNIZING ALASKA NATIVE CO-MANAGEMENT RIGHTS OVER SUBSISTENCE RESOURCES ON PUBLIC LANDS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH STATE AND FEDERAL AGENCIES?

Yes.

### 5. HOW WOULD YOU SUPPORT INTEGRATING TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE INTO MANAGEMENT DECISIONS THAT AFFECT SUBSISTENCE RESOURCES?

I have long stated that the present system of testimony-gathering by the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council, as well as other management bodies, is flawed and truncated. The end result favors industry players more than subsistence users. While I believe internal bureaucratic reforms must take place within these structures, I also support integrating traditional ecological knowledge into decision-making by mandating Native voices be at the table when management decisions are being considered.

### 6. WOULD YOU ADVOCATE FOR AMENDMENTS TO FEDERAL LAWS SUCH AS THE ALASKA NATIONAL INTEREST LANDS CONSERVATION ACT (ANILCA), THE MAGNUSON-STEVENS FISHERY CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT ACT, AND THE MARINE MAMMAL PROTECTION ACT TO ENSURE CONSULTATION WITH ALASKA NATIVE TRIBES AND ORGANIZATIONS, ESTABLISH CO-MANAGEMENT STANDARDS, AND INCREASE FUNDING TO SUPPORT THESE EFFORTS?

Yes, I have used my platform in Washington to advocate for a greater voice for Alaska Natives in the push for greater co-management in policy and in funding. For example, I've cosponsored the Don Young Restoration Grants for Coastlines and Fisheries Act, which will establish a grant program for communities across our state with the goal of protecting our waterways and marine habitats. And through the appropriations process I've worked to try and increase funding for agencies working to promulgate co-management of Alaska's federal lands and natural resources.

**7. WOULD YOU SUPPORT AMENDING THE ALASKA NATIVE CLAIMS SETTLEMENT ACT (ANCSA) TO AUTHORIZE ALASKA NATIVE MANAGEMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE ON ALL NATIVE CORPORATION-OWNED LANDS IN ALASKA?**

Recognizing that Alaska Native Corporations are the largest non-public landowners in the State, holding title to tens of millions of acres of land, I think it is only right that they be able to exert control over what occurs on their land. Too often, I've heard of non-shareholders from outside a Corporation's respective region trespassing and damaging the land, unlawfully taking in its resources, etc. with little recourse available to the Corporation or its shareholders. This must stop, and I look forward to continuing the conversation on what we can do to minimize illegal activity on Corporation lands.

**8. WOULD YOU SUPPORT AN ALASKA CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT FOR SUBSISTENCE THAT FULLY INCORPORATES ALASKA NATIVE SUBSISTENCE RIGHTS AND USES, ENSURING PROTECTIONS EXTEND TO ALASKA NATIVES REGARDLESS OF PLACE OF RESIDENCE WITHIN THE STATE, IN ADDITION TO THE FEDERAL PROTECTION FOR RURAL RESIDENTS UNDER ANILCA?**

Yes.

**9. WOULD YOU SUPPORT THE RETURN OF ALASKA NATIVES' ABORIGINAL HUNTING AND FISHING RIGHTS BY REPEALING SECTION 4(B) OF ANCSA?**

I think careful consideration ought to be given to the ramifications of repealing Section 4(b). Though I am supportive of the intent underlying a possible repeal of Section 4(b), I believe any change must have the buy-in of non-Native stakeholders in order to actually move the needle and become law. ANCSA was and is recognized as a compromise, and any changes to it will likely also have to be measured and broadly appealing.

## **Public Safety**

**1. AFN HAS PASSED NUMEROUS RESOLUTIONS CALLING FOR INCREASED PUBLIC SAFETY IN RURAL ALASKA. HOW WILL YOU WORK TO ENSURE THAT EVERY ALASKAN COMMUNITY HAS A FULL-TIME (OR OTHERWISE ADEQUATE) PUBLIC SAFETY PRESENCE?**

Investing in public safety has been a critical part of my work in Washington. Alaskans have been vocal that law enforcement should be fully funded and supported. I will continue to advocate for more funding to protect our families, greater authority for our Tribes and localities in combatting crime when it occurs, and overseeing the provision of public safety across our state.

**2. ALASKA FACES SOME OF THE HIGHEST RATES OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, SEXUAL ASSAULT, AND SUICIDE, WITH ALASKA NATIVE PEOPLE EXPERIENCING THESE ISSUES AT RATES TEN TIMES THE NATIONAL AVERAGE. IN THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT (VAWA) OF 2022, CONGRESS RECOGNIZED THE INHERENT AUTHORITY OF ALASKA NATIVE TRIBES TO EXERCISE CRIMINAL AND CIVIL JURISDICTION OVER ALL INDIANS PRESENT IN THEIR VILLAGES. HOWEVER, ALASKA NATIVE COMMUNITIES ARE OFTEN DENIED ACCESS TO VITAL PUBLIC SAFETY AUTHORITIES AND FUNDING DUE TO CONFUSION ABOUT P.L. 280 AND ALASKA'S UNIQUE LEGAL LANDSCAPE. DO YOU SUPPORT INCORPORATING THE DEFINITION OF "VILLAGE" FROM VAWA 2022 INTO ALL PUBLIC SAFETY STATUTES, REGULATIONS, POLICIES, AND IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES?**

Yes. Again, no one should feel unsafe in their community, regardless of where they live. One of the things I appreciated about VAWA 2022 was the authority it granted, albeit in a targeted capacity, to our Tribes as partners in the provision of justice. That approach ought to be lauded more and expanded. As we continue to track the implementation of the law, I intend to support it as best as I'm able.

**3. THE 2021 TRIBAL LAW AND ORDER ACT (TLOA) REPORT FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR ESTIMATED THAT THE TOTAL COST FOR PUBLIC SAFETY AND JUSTICE PROGRAMS IN INDIAN COUNTRY IS OVER \$3.5 BILLION, WITH SIGNIFICANT GAPS IN LAW ENFORCEMENT, DETENTION CENTERS, AND TRIBAL COURTS. DO YOU SUPPORT THE RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THIS REPORT, AND HOW WOULD YOU ADVOCATE FOR INCREASED FUNDING TO ADDRESS THE PUBLIC SAFETY AND JUSTICE NEEDS IN INDIAN COUNTRY?**

Yes, I fully support filling those gaps in our system. As a former Tribal judge, I understand how critical this funding is, which is why I have consistently advocated for the highest possible funding levels for our Tribal justice systems

in the FY24 and FY25 budget cycles. I will absolutely continue to push for increased federal funds for our Tribal justice system should I be re-elected.

**4. AFN HAS CALLED ON THE INTERIOR DEPARTMENT TO PROVIDE DEDICATED ANNUAL NON-COMPETITIVE BASE FUNDING FOR P.L. 280 TRIBES TO DEVELOP AND SUSTAIN TRIBAL COURT SYSTEMS AND SUPPORT PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICES. DO YOU SUPPORT OUR POSITION?**

Yes.

**4A. IF SO, HOW WOULD YOU WORK TO ENSURE THAT FUNDING MEETS THE BUDGETARY NEEDS OF TRIBES IN ALASKA?**

As a former tribal judge, I'm proud to be a previous recipient of the AFN's endorsement, based on my record of championing funding for Tribal courts and other programs such as drug treatment options through bills such as the Modernizing Opioid Treatment Access Act, which I sponsored. I will continue to sponsor and vote for legislation that will directly increase funding for Tribes as well as bills that allow for indirect funding, such as allowing tribes to form corporations and receive grants.

## **Economic Development**

**1. HOW WILL YOU ENCOURAGE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND HELP SECURE THE BASIC INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDED FOR ALASKA NATIVE COMMUNITIES TO DEVELOP, ATTRACT, AND SUSTAIN PROFITABLE BUSINESS VENTURES?**

I believe economic development is critical for Native communities, which is why I sponsored the Native American Millennium Challenge Demonstration Act to provide economic development assistance to remote Alaska Native communities. I have also sponsored bills such as the Investing in Rural Manufacturing Act and the Office of Manufacturing and the Industrial Innovation Policy Act, which will help all Alaskan businesses. I am working with the rest of the congressional delegation and the state to implement a bipartisan infrastructure bill and bring over \$2 billion in investments to our state.

**2. OUTMIGRATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE AND SKILLED WORKERS HAS A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY IN ALASKA. WHAT SPECIFIC POLICIES OR INITIATIVES WOULD YOU SUPPORT TO ENSURE THAT FUTURE GENERATIONS OF ALASKANS HAVE OPPORTUNITIES TO THRIVE IN THE STATE?**

We are losing our kids to outmigration every year, and Lower 48 partisan gridlock and politicking are trying to interfere with our Alaska model of working together. Good jobs are critical for our communities to thrive. I fought for the Willow Project to bring stable, good-paying union jobs to Alaska workers and help bring down our energy costs nationwide. I cosponsored the LODGE Act to allow the Department of the Interior to enter into agreements with housing entities to provide rental housing for employees to make sure they have more, better housing options.

**3. HOW DO YOU ENVISION A SUCCESSFUL RURAL ALASKA ECONOMY?**

I am committed to our state's development and helping local communities build robust economies with good-paying jobs where residents have access to elements of a high quality of life, from housing to healthcare. We must be able to provide ample educational and workforce opportunities for people in rural areas which are sustainable and well-paying. I'm grateful to see this future starting to become a reality, bringing home hundreds of millions of dollars for our state's broadband buildout, the proliferation of renewable microgrids, and the largest Tribal housing appropriation in history.

**3A. WHAT ROLE DO YOU BELIEVE THE EXPANSION OF BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE PLAYS IN ACHIEVING THAT VISION?**

Broadband is critical to attracting business to our state and keeping people within our communities. This is why I cosponsored the E-BRIDGE Act to provide for a high-speed broadband deployment initiative through an amendment to the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 and the Broadband Grant Tax Treatment Act to exclude certain broadband grants made for broadband deployment from gross income, for income tax purposes. We must connect our communities to the outside world. There is so much we have to offer, I know digital connection is a first step to ensuring an even economic playing field across the state.

**4. ONE ROADBLOCK TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN THE VILLAGES IS THE HIGH COST OF ENERGY. WHAT MEASURES WILL YOU TAKE TO LOWER THE COST OF ENERGY IN RURAL ALASKA AND THEREBY REDUCE THE COST OF DOING BUSINESS?**

I secured one of the largest investments in a renewable energy grid in American history - taking a big step toward a cleaner, stronger energy future, with more jobs and lower costs for Alaskans. By 2035, 75% of Alaskans can be

powered by 85% renewable energy. I will continue to work to lower the cost of energy as part of my agenda.

**5. TOURISM IS ONE OF THE LARGEST SECTORS OF ALASKA'S ECONOMY, AND CULTURAL TOURISM PRESENTS A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY FOR ALASKA NATIVE COMMUNITIES. DO YOU SUPPORT THE CREATION OF AN INDIGENOUS TOURISM ORGANIZATION TO ENHANCE CULTURAL TOURISM CAPACITY?**

Yes.

**6. HOW WOULD YOU ADVOCATE FOR INCREASED FUNDING AND RESOURCES TO PROMOTE THE SUSTAINABILITY OF CULTURAL TOURISM INITIATIVES?**

I cosponsored the Explore America Act, which directs the Secretary of the Interior to enter into partnerships with communities adjacent to units of the National Park System to leverage local cultural heritage tourism assets.

**6A. ADDITIONALLY, WOULD YOU SUPPORT A STATEWIDE INITIATIVE TO CREATE A CERTIFICATION AND BRANDING SYSTEM TO ENSURE THAT ALASKA NATIVE-LED ORGANIZATIONS ARE AT THE FOREFRONT OF THE TOURISM INDUSTRY?**

Yes.

## Health and Wellness

**THE COMMISSION ON NATIVE CHILDREN REPORT WAS SUBMITTED TO CONGRESS AND THE WHITE HOUSE ON FEBRUARY 19, 2024. IN IT, THERE ARE 29 RECOMMENDATIONS THAT WOULD IMPROVE OUTCOMES FOR NATIVE CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN FOUR MAIN AREAS, INCLUDING EDUCATION AND JOB TRAINING, PHYSICAL, MENTAL AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH, CHILD WELFARE AND JUVENILE JUSTICE. WHILE SOME OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS CAN BE IMPLEMENTED BY AGENCIES WITHOUT LEGISLATIVE ACTION, OTHERS REQUIRE CONGRESSIONAL RESPONSE. HOW WILL YOU ENSURE ATTENTION TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS AND FOLLOW UP ON THE IMPORTANT LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES THEY SET?**

I cosponsored the Native American Child Protection Act, which amends the Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Act to expand the definition of child abuse and neglect, increase funding and support for tribal child protection services, and establish a National Indian Child Resource and Family Services Center. Getting this bill passed will be a critical part in the broader effort of supporting our children throughout every aspect of their lives as we work to create productive, safe communities.

**2. THE SECOND FOCUS OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS ADDRESSED CROSS-SYSTEM ISSUES, RESEARCH AND DATA SOVEREIGNTY. THESE SUPPORTED INCREASED AUTHORITY FOR TRIBES AND TRIBAL ORGANIZATIONS IN PROGRAM DESIGN, FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION WITHOUT BURDENSOME ADMINISTRATIVE SUPERVISION BY FEDERAL AGENCIES. SUCCESSFUL EXAMPLES THAT THE REPORT SPECIFICALLY HOW TO LEVERAGE OPPORTUNITIES WITH P.L. 102-477, SELF-GOVERNANCE, AND FLEXIBLE FUNDING. DO YOU SUPPORT EXPANDING THE SCOPE OF FLEXIBLE FUNDING AND INCREASED AUTHORITY FOR TRIBES AND TRIBAL ORGANIZATIONS IN IMPLEMENTING THEIR OWN PROGRAMS FUNDED BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT?**

Absolutely. Tribes have consistently proven to make funds go further and provide better outcomes for Tribal and non-Tribal members alike when they aren't hamstrung by arbitrary reporting requirements or bureaucratic snags that can sometimes come with agency dollars and directives. We oftentimes verbally recognize Tribes as sovereigns. We must be more consistent in taking that approach in policy too.

**3. CHRONIC DISEASES SUCH AS DIABETES AND RESPIRATORY ILLNESS DISPROPORTIONATELY AFFECT ALASKA NATIVE COMMUNITIES, AND THE INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE (IHS) HAS HISTORICALLY BEEN UNDERFUNDED. WHAT STEPS WILL YOU TAKE TO ENSURE THAT IHS RECEIVES ADEQUATE FUNDING TO ADDRESS THESE HEALTH DISPARITIES AND MEET THE HEALTHCARE NEEDS OF ALASKA NATIVES?**

I support fully funding and advanced appropriations for IHS. Further, I have sponsored bills to protect the healthcare of Alaska Natives such as the Urban Indian Health Confer Act to require the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to confer with urban Indian organizations regarding health care for American Indians and Alaska Natives living in urban areas and the Telehealth Expansion Act of 2023 to expand affordable care to rural Native Alaskans.

**4. ACCESS TO MENTAL HEALTH CARE AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT IS OFTEN LIMITED OR UNAVAILABLE IN RURAL ALASKA, CONTRIBUTING TO ONGOING CHALLENGES IN THESE COMMUNITIES. WHAT STRATEGIES WILL YOU EMPLOY TO INCREASE ACCESS TO COMPREHENSIVE SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT PROGRAMS IN RURAL AREAS?**

Substance abuse is a problem that has touched practically every family in Alaska. This is why I have sponsored the Supporting Families through Addiction Act, a bill which would establish a grant program for family community

organizations that provide support for individuals struggling with substance use disorder and their families.

**4A. AND HOW WILL YOU ENSURE THAT MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ARE INTEGRATED INTO THESE EFFORTS TO SUPPORT LONG-TERM RECOVERY AND COMMUNITY WELLNESS?**

Affordable treatment is critical so people can fully complete their treatment programs. This is why I sponsored the Improving Access to Mental Health Act, to improve access to mental health services under the Medicare program.

**5. AFFORDABLE HOUSING IS IN CRITICALLY SHORT SUPPLY IN ALASKA, CONTRIBUTING TO VARIOUS SOCIAL CHALLENGES. FUNDING UNDER THE NATIVE AMERICAN HOUSING AND SELF-DETERMINATION ACT (NAHASDA) IS THE MAIN SOURCE OF FEDERAL ASSISTANCE TO PROVIDE SAFE, ACCESSIBLE, AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING TO AMERICAN INDIANS, ALASKA NATIVES, AND NATIVE HAWAIIANS. DO YOU SUPPORT REAUTHORIZING AND ADEQUATELY FUNDING NAHASDA?**

Yes

**5A. AND WOULD YOU ADVOCATE FOR INFLATION-PROOFING THESE FUNDS TO ENSURE LONG-TERM STABILITY FOR TRIBAL HOUSING PROGRAMS?**

Yes

**6. ALASKA NATIVE COMMUNITIES ARE FACING A SEVERE DRUG CRISIS, INCLUDING THE IMPACTS OF HEROIN, METH, AND FENTANYL. HOW WOULD YOU ADVOCATE FOR ONGOING EFFORTS TO PROTECT AND ENHANCE ALASKA NATIVE COMMUNITIES IN COMBATING THIS CRISIS?**

All communities deserve access to quality treatment for substance abuse. This is why I sponsored the Telehealth Response for E-prescribing Addiction Therapy Services Act, to allow for the use of telehealth in substance use disorder treatment.

## Voting and Representation

**1. HOW DO YOU PLAN TO ADDRESS THE CHALLENGES FACED BY ALASKA NATIVES IN VOTING, SUCH AS LANGUAGE BARRIERS AND ACCESS TO POLLING LOCATIONS?**

I am proud to support the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, which would strengthen the protections of the Voting Rights Act. This bill would protect the voting rights of all communities and guarantee each American has the right to accessible voting despite issues that have traditionally caused barriers such as transportation, disability, economic disadvantages, or language barriers.

**2. HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE THE IMPORTANCE OF VOTING AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT TO OUR YOUTH AND NEW VOTERS, ESPECIALLY WITHIN ALASKA NATIVE COMMUNITIES?**

For the sake of ourselves and our communities, it is our duty to vote. Alaskans deserve a seat at the table in Washington, D.C., and it is critical that we vote to send a Representative who will protect our freedoms such as our right to reproductive freedom, protecting and promoting access to social security, and continued sovereignty and self-determination for our Native communities.

**3. ACCESS TO RELIABLE POSTAL SERVICES IS A SIGNIFICANT CHALLENGE IN RURAL ALASKA, IMPACTING ALASKA NATIVE COMMUNITIES' ABILITY TO PARTICIPATE IN ELECTIONS, ACCESS HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES, AND ENGAGE IN PUBLIC COMMENT PROCESSES. DO YOU SUPPORT EFFORTS TO SECURE A GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE INVESTIGATION INTO THE STATUS OF POSTAL SERVICES IN RURAL ALASKA?**

Yes

**3A. AND HOW WOULD YOU WORK TO ENSURE THE FINDINGS LEAD TO IMPROVED MAIL SERVICES THAT WOULD ENHANCE ELECTION PARTICIPATION AND ACCESS TO ESSENTIAL SERVICES FOR ALASKA NATIVE PEOPLE?**

Mail is critical for rural Alaskans to participate in our voting process. I have sponsored the Election Mail Act to improve procedures and requirements related to election mail and the Vote by Mail Tracking Act to require mail-in ballots to use the Postal Service barcode service.

## Education

**1. HOW WOULD YOU ADVOCATE FOR INCREASED FUNDING AND CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR CULTURAL AND LANGUAGE PROGRAMS IN ALASKA?**

It is critical for Native Alaskan culture to be preserved for our children and grandchildren. This is why I sponsored

the Native Arts and Culture Promotion Act and a resolution to recognize National Native American Heritage Month, celebrating the cultures of Native people across the country.

**1A. AND WHAT STEPS WOULD YOU TAKE TO ENSURE THESE PROGRAMS ARE FULLY INTEGRATED INTO OUR SCHOOLS?**

I have fought to remove barriers to cultural education, which is why I sponsored the Protecting Hunting Heritage and Education Act, to clarify that the prohibition on the use of Federal education funds for certain weapons does not apply to the use of such weapons for training in archery, hunting, or other shooting sports.

**2. RECRUITING AND RETAINING QUALIFIED TEACHERS, ESPECIALLY IN RURAL AND REMOTE COMMUNITIES, HAS LONG BEEN A CHALLENGE IN ALASKA, CONTRIBUTING TO GAPS IN EDUCATION QUALITY AND STUDENT OUTCOMES. WHAT SPECIFIC STRATEGIES AND POLICIES WOULD YOU IMPLEMENT TO ADDRESS THESE CHALLENGES, IMPROVE TEACHER RETENTION, AND ENSURE THAT ALL STUDENTS—PARTICULARLY IN RURAL AREAS—HAVE ACCESS TO HIGH-QUALITY EDUCATORS?**

Quality teachers are critical for successful school outcomes. This is why I cosponsored H.R.4550 to carry out a grant program to support the recruitment and retention of paraprofessionals in public elementary schools, secondary schools, and preschool programs.

**3. WHAT MEASURES WILL YOU TAKE TO EXPAND ACCESS TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROGRAMS FOR ALASKA NATIVE CHILDREN?**

Early education is critical, which is why I support universal Pre-K to level the playing field for working Alaska families and help every child reach their fullest potential.

**4. HOW DO YOU PLAN TO EXPAND VOCATIONAL AND TECHNICAL TRAINING PROGRAMS THAT ALIGN WITH THE ECONOMIC NEEDS OF ALASKA NATIVE COMMUNITIES?**

Post-secondary education and training for communities is critical to attracting quality jobs to Alaska. I have sponsored the Youth Workforce Readiness Act to establish a competitive grant program to support out-of-school-time youth workforce readiness programs, providing employability skills development, career exploration, employment readiness training, mentoring, work-based learning, and workforce opportunities for eligible youth.

**Other**

**1. IN LIGHT OF RECENT TENSIONS BETWEEN U.S. AND RUSSIAN JET FIGHTERS IN THE ARCTIC, HOW DO YOU DEFINE ALASKA'S STRATEGIC ROLE AS AN ARCTIC AND PACIFIC STATE IN SHAPING AMERICAN FOREIGN AND ECONOMIC POLICY?**

Alaska is home to critical U.S. military bases and other sites. We play a critical role in protecting our homeland from foreign adversaries. Supporting service-members in Alaska is a critical part of my job, which is why I have helped pass the 2024 National Defense Reauthorization Act, securing the largest pay raise for our hardworking servicemen and women in decades alongside investments in Alaska bases along with cosponsored the Stop Our Sexual Assault in the Military Act to require service-members on active duty to receive self-defense training to combat sexual assault.

Protecting our rich natural resources from both foreign and domestic threats is a priority for me. I worked tirelessly to achieve a major milestone in pro-fish policymaking securing a ban on predatory foreign trawlers poaching our fish, discarding millions of pounds of bycatch, and destroying our ecosystems.

**1A. HOW WOULD YOU ENSURE ALASKA'S SECURITY AND MAXIMIZE ITS ECONOMIC POTENTIAL IN THESE REGIONS?**

Protecting our national security is vital. I sponsored the Chinese Spy Balloon Assessment Act, directing the Secretary of Defense to submit a report about the effects on national security of the surveillance conducted by the People's Republic of China. Our unique location presents security challenges and we must act with grave concern when our airspace is violated. We must stand with our allies in protecting democratic values, which is why I sponsored reaffirming the United States full and unwavering commitment to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization in its 75th anniversary year and its goals of achieving collective security through transatlantic partnerships.

Protecting our economic interests is critical for Alaska. This is why I sponsored the Office of Manufacturing and Industrial Innovation Policy Act of 2023, to establish the Office of Manufacturing and Industrial Innovation Policy and strategic national manufacturing policy for the United States.

**2. ALASKA IS ON THE FRONT LINES OF CLIMATE CHANGE, WITH WILDFIRES, STORMS, RISING TEMPERATURES, AND OTHER EXTREME EVENTS THREATENING THE VIABILITY OF OUR COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE STATE. HOW WILL YOU**

**SUPPORT EFFORTS FOR EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND LONG-TERM RESILIENCE TO HELP THESE COMMUNITIES ADAPT TO THE IMMEDIATE AND FUTURE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE, INCLUDING THE PROTECTION OF SUBSISTENCE FOODS AND LOCAL ECOSYSTEMS?**

Alaskans are witnessing the effects of a changing climate in real-time, with houses in the bush already sinking into the permafrost. I am fighting for legislation and initiatives that protect our environment and world. I support numerous bills to protect our environment, ecosystems, and food sources, including the Save Our Sequoias Act to improve the health and resiliency of giant sequoias, the Reducing Plastics in Wastewater Act, and the Cleaner Air Spaces Act of 2023.