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OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

April 21, 2005

The Honorable Frank H. Murkowski
State of Alaska
P. O. Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811-0001

      Re: Success Story – Local Hire

Dear Governor Murkowski,

One of "our own" was recognized in the news yesterday, a noteworthy enough accolade to pass on so that you know how seriously we're taking your charge to get Alaskans good paying jobs. It is a tribute to your winning efforts to get more retraining dollars.

While the Alaskan Explorer was docked in Juneau this week on her maiden voyage, the media understandably took special interest in crewmember Luke Bradley.   Luke is a 24-year old Alaska resident who was a participant in the $8 million National Emergency Grant program the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development administers. The program accounts for a portion of the $40 million commitment you negotiated with U.S. Labor Secretary Elaine Chao and OMB Director Mitchell Daniels while serving in the U.S. Senate. It provides retraining for workers dislocated from Alaska's commercial salmon fishery.

Luke worked for six years on Lynn Canal fish tenders until, as the Juneau Empire stated yesterday, "the pay soured." In April last year, Juneau Job Center determined him eligible under the National Emergency Grant and referred him through the Seafarers' Education Alternative Link (SEA Link Inc.) agency to training at the Seafarers International Union's Paul Hall Center for Maritime Education in Piney Point, Maryland. After receiving his initial training as an Ordinary Seaman, he is the only Alaskan out of 24 crewmembers on the M/V ALASKAN EXPLORER. He is now earning $2,200 a month in wages with paid vacations.

Luke's success is your success, but more importantly, a victory for Alaska and Alaska hire. I am proud to acknowledge this tribute and pay my

respect to you for hammering this message home where well-trained Alaskans in good paying jobs belong!

Sincerely,

/s/

Greg O'Claray
Commissioner