

From: Senator Dan Sullivan <Senator@sullivan.senate.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, May 13, 2026 12:05 PM

To: Clerk <bregula@petersburgak.gov>

Subject: Historic Coast Guard Buildup for Alaska, including 3 icebreakers!

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COMMITTEES

ARMED SERVICES
COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND
TRANSPORTATION
ENVIRONMENT AND
PUBLIC WORKS
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Dear Alaskan,

I am writing to share important news about the historic Coast Guard buildup taking place in Alaska—particularly regarding icebreakers, expanded shipbuilding and manufacturing capabilities, and infrastructure upgrades in our state. Using my seat on the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, which oversees the Coast Guard, I've been pushing for this buildup since I've been in the Senate and have continued as chair of the Senate Commerce Subcommittee on Coast Guard, Maritime, and Fisheries.

Last month the Secretary of Homeland Security announced that two more U.S. Coast Guard icebreakers will be homeported in Alaska. This is in addition to the Coast Guard Cutter *Storis* now homeported in Juneau.

This is another major milestone for Alaska's expanded Coast Guard presence and the broader military comeback taking place across our state.

Since joining the Senate, I have been sounding the alarm that our nation is falling behind in the Arctic—particularly when it comes to our icebreaker gap. While adversaries like Russia, with more than 50 icebreakers, and China have dramatically expanded their presence in the region, the United States has had just two Coast Guard heavy icebreakers—both homeported in Seattle, with one out of service.

Further, a decade ago, the Coast Guard was planning to reduce its presence across Alaska—the frontline of America's Arctic. We fought those plans and have increased the number of vessels in Alaska. The homeporting of three icebreakers in Alaska builds on years of work to reverse that trend. All told, since I've been in office, I have been able to secure over \$1.4 billion for infrastructure and construction-related projects in Alaska to support new and existing Coast Guard assets, providing significant investment in infrastructure and local housing and childcare in our Coast Guard communities.

These investments include six Fast Response Cutters (FRCs) in Ketchikan, Kodiak, Seward, and Sitka, two Offshore Patrol Cutters in Kodiak, a Waterways Commerce Cutter for Petersburg, and 87-foot patrol boats for Petersburg, Juneau, and Valdez to expand maritime safety, security, and search-and-rescue capability across Alaska.

This Coast Guard buildup is spurring some of the most exciting economic activity we've seen in years: a boom in shipbuilding and heavy maintenance activity throughout our state, from Kodiak to Seward to Ketchikan, perhaps even in Wrangell.

I also worked relentlessly to secure \$25 billion for the Coast Guard in the Working Families Tax Cut Act (WFTCA)—the largest investment in Coast Guard history—to modernize the service's fleet and infrastructure. These investments include:

- Funding for 16 new icebreakers — a dramatic expansion from the Coast Guard's current capability — as well as 22 new cutters, more than 40 new helicopters, and 6 new C-130J aircraft.
- \$4.379 billion for repairing docks, hangars, and Coast Guard shore facilities nationwide – including projects in Alaska.
- Specifically for Alaska, the WFTCA included \$300 million to support shoreside infrastructure for the homeporting of the *USCGC Storis* in Juneau.

With more coastline than the rest of the country combined, Alaska depends on the Coast Guard like no other state. The Coast Guard's presence and capabilities in Alaska are growing, and I am pursuing every opportunity to ensure our state remains at the forefront of the nation's strategic center of gravity in the Arctic and to provide the brave men and women who serve our state the resources they need to do their jobs and provide for their families every day.

If you have questions about these developments or how they may impact you or your community, please contact my office at 202-224-3004 or visit www.sullivan.senate.gov.

Sincerely,



Dan Sullivan
United States Senator