October 4, 2010

The Honorable Sean Parnell
Governor of Alaska
Juneau, AK 99811-0001

Dear Governor Parnell:

Since your state will hold an election for U.S. Senator on November 2, I want to remind you of the Senate requirements for certificates of election.

When the result of an election for United States Senator has been officially ascertained, federal law (2 U.S.C. §§ 1a-1b) requires that a certificate of election must be signed by the Governor, attested to by the Secretary of State, have the seal of the state affixed and must be provided to the President of the Senate. If a state does not have a Secretary of State, the certificate must be signed by the state election official. Enclosed is a copy of Senate Rule II which contains the wording for the certificate. The language must be adhered to or the certificate will be rejected and returned to the state for re-certification.

If the senator’s term is to begin on January 3, 2011, when the new congress convenes, the original certificate must be delivered to the Secretary of the Senate well in advance of January 3. If the senator is elected in a special election, the original certificate must be delivered to the Secretary of the Senate as soon as the election is certified. Heightened mail security measures at the Capitol and the need to ensure that election certificates will be received in a timely manner require that the certificate must either be:

1. Mailed via U.S. Postal Service certified/registered (use the option that does not require “Return Receipt Requested,” as there is no one to sign) to the Office of Public Records, P.O. Box 2517, Alexandria, VA 22301-0517. Enclosed is a return label for mailing the document. It is advised that the mailing receipt be retained for proof of timely mailing; or

2. Hand-delivered to the Senate Office of Public Records, 232 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510. Because the delivery of sealed envelopes, boxes, or other containers is prohibited in the Senate buildings, the certificate should be delivered in an unsealed file folder.
If you have any questions, please contact Adam Bramwell or Mark Tratos, of my staff, at (202) 224-3622. We look forward to receiving the certificate of election in the coming weeks and appreciate your assistance.

Sincerely,

Nancy Erickson
Secretary of the Senate

Enclosure