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Governor Sean Parnell
STATE OF ALASKA

April 28, 2013

Mr. Thomas Tidwell
Chief
United States Forest Service
United States Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave, SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Mr. Tidwell,

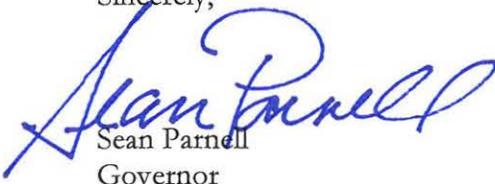
In a letter dated March 19, 2013, you advised that the mandated federal budget reductions (sequester) apply to revenue generated in 2012 and paid in 2013 under Titles I and III of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act. Since the United States Forest Service has already made its payment to Alaska, you are seeking a repayment of the sequester percentage of 5.1 percent, which amounts to \$707,795.40 under Titles I and III, as well as a withholding of \$118,536.50 (or 5.1 percent) of Title II funds not yet allocated. You gave Alaska the option of having the total amount of \$826,331.90 reduced from the State's Title II funds or having that sum collected from funds already disbursed under Titles I and III.

On behalf of the proud forest communities that received FFY 2012 Secure Rural School aid in January of 2013, I maintain that neither the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended by the Budget Control Act of 2011, nor the Anti-Deficiency Act, authorize you to request repayment of Title I and Title III outlays. As such, I will not request the Alaska State Legislature consider such an appropriation.

Additionally, your letter cites no authority for the reduction of Title II funds. The Titles I and III funds have been allocated and used in accordance with the federal law that authorized their disbursement. You have cited no valid authority for your retroactive efforts to have those funds repaid or offset.

This sequester dilemma highlights the continued failure of the United States Forest Service to successfully manage the nation's forests, especially the Tongass. I stand ready to discuss solutions to allow our forests to once again support healthy communities – not impoverish them.

Sincerely,


Sean Parnell
Governor

cc: Title I and Title II Schools, and Title II RAC's