To provide for the establishment of the National Volcano Early Warning and Monitoring System.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 14, 2011

Ms. MURKOWSKI introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

A BILL

To provide for the establishment of the National Volcano Early Warning and Monitoring System.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “National Volcano Early Warning and Monitoring Program Act”.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) PROGRAM.—The term “program” means the National Volcano Early Warning and Monitoring Program established under section 3(a).
(2) Secretary.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

SEC. 3. NATIONAL VOLCANO EARLY WARNING AND MONITORING PROGRAM.

(a) Establishment.—The Secretary shall establish within the United States Geological Survey a program to be known as the “National Volcano Early Warning and Monitoring Program”.

(b) Components.—The program shall consist of a national volcano watch office and data center, which shall oversee and coordinate the activities of United States Geological Survey regional volcano watch and data centers.

(c) Purposes.—The purposes of the program are—

(1) to monitor and study volcanoes and volcanic activity throughout the United States at a level commensurate with the threat posed by each volcano; and

(2) to warn and protect people and property from undue and avoidable harm from volcanic activity.

SEC. 4. MANAGEMENT.

(a) Management Plan.—

(1) In general.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary
shall prepare a management plan for establishing
and operating the program.

(2) INCLUSIONS.—The management plan shall
include—

(A) annual cost estimates of—

(i) operating the program; and

(ii) updating the data collection, moni-
toring, and analysis systems;

(B) annual standards and performance
goals; and

(C) recommendations for establishing new,
or enhancing existing, partnerships with State
agencies or universities.

(b) PARTNERSHIPS.—The Secretary may enter into
cooperative agreements or partnerships with State agen-
cies and universities, under which the Secretary may des-
ignate the agency or university as volcano observatory
partners for the program.

(c) COORDINATION WITH OTHER FEDERAL AGEN-
cies.—The Secretary shall coordinate activities author-
ized under this Act with the heads of relevant Federal
agencies including—

(1) the Secretary of Transportation;

(2) the Secretary of Commerce;
(3) the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration; and

(4) the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Administration.

(d) Grant Program.—

(1) In General.—The Secretary may establish a competitive grant program to support research and monitoring of volcanic activities in furtherance of this Act.

(2) Cost-Sharing Requirement.—The non-Federal share of the total cost of an activity provided assistance under this subsection shall be 25 percent.

(e) Annual Report.—The Secretary shall annually submit to Congress a report that describes the activities undertaken during the previous year to carry out this Act.

SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act $15,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2012 through 2022.