

## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 9, 2013

Ms. Catherine Weatherford  
President and CEO  
Insured Retirement Institute  
1101 New York Avenue NW, Suite 825  
Washington, DC 20005-4359

Re: National Retirement Planning Week

Dear Ms. Weatherford:

Alaska has one of the fastest growing retirement populations in the country. And with that growth, comes the necessity to plan for the retirement years. Retirement planning is an important step that will lead many Americans toward a financially secure future. However, the process can be a challenge for consumers today and many will move toward retirement without an adequate financial plan. It is important to communicate the value of retirement planning so Americans can appropriately prepare for and attain financial security during their retirement years.

National Retirement Planning Week is a significant effort to promote awareness of these important issues and provides Americans with essential retirement planning information. I applaud you for your leadership in spearheading the National Retirement Planning Coalition and commend all the coalition members for their efforts to educate Americans about the importance of retirement planning. I wish you all the best as you continue this campaign.

Sincerely,

Mark Begich  
United States Senator