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August 1, 2012

**The Honorable Tom Coburn
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510**

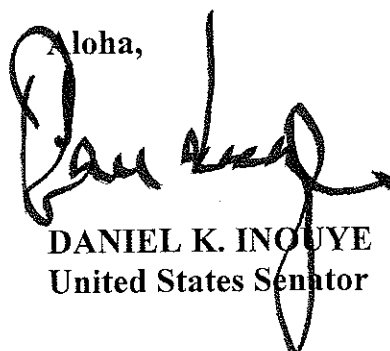
Dear Senator Coburn:

I apologize for the delay in responding to your letter concerning my legislation, S. 1537, which would provide for a permanent authorization of funds to support the operations and maintenance of the National September 11th Memorial and Museum. Your letter raised several points and asked thoughtful questions regarding the issues associated with the bill and the Memorial and Museum.

Passage of this legislation remains a high priority for me, so I wanted to take this opportunity to let you know that my staff, along with staff of Senators Schumer and Gillibrand, has been working diligently to resolve your concerns relating to the legislation. In addition, my staff and your staff have had several constructive meetings to better understand and attempt to answer the questions you raise.

In addition, we have been meeting with Secretary of Interior Ken Salazar and other Interior Department officials, along with other representatives of the Obama Administration. We have been working with the offices of Governors Andrew Cuomo and Chris Christie as well, in addition to Mayor Michael Bloomberg's office, to understand their perspectives on the regional issues raised by the need for the legislation.

I did not want you and your staff to think we are ignoring the issues you raise in your letter. We remain committed to seeking a path forward for this important legislation. When we have enough information to warrant further discussions with you and your staff, I assure you we will do so.

Aloha,

DANIEL K. INOUE
United States Senator

DKI:mcb