

To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
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Subject: Murkowski pledges to work with Trump on healthcare, sidesteps details of Zinke call

By Ben Lefebvre

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Sen. [Lisa Murkowski](#) (R-Alaska) said she will continue to work with President Donald Trump on health care reform but did not address reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke threatened projects in her home state in a public statement today.

"While I have disagreed with the Senate process so far, the President and I agree that the status quo with health care in our country is not acceptable and that reforms must be made," Murkowski said in a prepared statement. "I continue working to find the best path for what I believe will achieve that — a committee process where we can work issues in the open and ensure Alaskans have the health care choices they want, the affordability they need, and the quality of care they deserve."

Murkowski confirmed to reporters in the Capitol today that Zinke called her Wednesday, but she did not elaborate on their conversation. She also [told E&E News](#) earlier today that Trump had called her Tuesday after she voted against proceeding to legislation to repeal Obamacare.

Murkowski and fellow Alaska Republican Senator [Dan Sullivan](#) received calls Wednesday warning them that the administration's support for public lands or energy projects may dwindle after Murkowski's vote Tuesday against taking up a bill to repeal Obamacare. Interior has wide sway over Alaskan energy project because nearly two-thirds of the state consists of federal property. The Alaska Dispatch News [first reported](#) the calls.

House Democrats are [calling for an investigation](#) into the call Zinke made to the Alaskan senators.

John Bresnahan contributed to this report.

To view online:

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