

Weather service 'Catch 22'

To Sen. Ted Stevens:

I am writing you, probably as most people do, out of frustration. I am interested in taking a weather observer course for certification.

The weather service provided certification classes in the past and may still do so for other weather observation companies. However, they indicated to me that if I was awarded a contract, they would dispurse some study materials to me so I could come back to their office and take the certification test.

Wayne Henderson of the National Weather Service said he would not give me study material unless I was awarded a contract first.

I understand that government services are affected by cutbacks, and the National Weather Service also is affected. I'm offering to become certified to increase coverage of government voids and to be a weather observation service that is owned by an Alaska Native with an aviation background.

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I have talked with Arco's John Schmidt, manager of the aviation department at Arco. He seemed very supportive and encouraging about my quest. Because of this, Fred Blair, who mans the Prudhoe airstrip for Arco is generous enough to copy some of his weather study guides to me.

It seems very sad that I must resort to begging to be certified as a weather observer. I'm not making much pro-

gress. I will only receive study materials, however, there is no hope of taking a certification test at present.

Any suggestions you may have will be greatly appreciated. I thought if I started my own company I could recommend myself for the certification test. Wayne Henderson himself admitted it was a "Catch 22." My question is why?

Sincerely,
Barbara Richards Kimberlin
Anchorage