

## Unknown

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**From:** Stan Hooley [shooley@iditarod.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 23, 2008 6:14 PM  
**To:** Jim Palin  
**Subject:** dot letter, willow airport, october, 2007.pdf  
**Attachments:** dot letter, willow airport, october, 2007.pdf

10/14/2009

ROSTON 01410

# STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC FACILITIES  
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

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October 17, 2007

Mr. Stan Hooley, Executive Director  
Iditarod Trail Committee  
P.O. Box 870800  
Wasilla, Alaska 99687-0800

Dear Mr. Hooley:

I'd like to thank you, Deby Trosper, and Jim Palin for taking the time to meet with me and members of my staff to discuss the continued use of the Willow Airport as the Iditarod restart point.

The State has been honored to have the restart take place on Willow Airport. Over the years, we have been pleased to accommodate the needs of the restart and have done as much as possible to make the restart easy and safe. However, as we discussed in our meeting, the Department is unable to offer the Iditarod use of the runway areas offered previously for vehicle parking. As you are aware, the Willow Airport is subject to a Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Airport Improvement Program Grant. Under this grant, the State was required to sign a grant assurance commitment that requires the State to operate the Airport under federal standards.

As a result of the State allowing vehicles to park in and around the runway during the Iditarod event, the FAA has placed the Willow Airport in non-compliance under the grant assurances and has determined the airport is ineligible for future federal funding of airport projects. As a result of this action, the Department will not be able to accommodate vehicle parking as we previously have done.

To continue the department's support of the Iditarod, we have offered and continue to offer use of an area, approximately 8 acres in size, to the Iditarod Committee that should be of sufficient size to handle the anticipated vehicle demands for this upcoming year's event and possibly for future events. Further, use of this area for vehicle parking will not be in violation under the federal grant program.

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October 17, 2007

However, as you're aware, this area is treed and must be cleared before it can be used. We received word from AIC, the contractor doing the Hicks Creek project that they are willing to offer their services to the Iditarod to do the necessary clearing. The people to contact are, Mr. Ken Yakee, President or Mr. Brent Cleaves, whose number is 746-7702. There is a weather observation instrument within this area that the State will have removed by the time you start your clearing effort.

It is imperative that the Iditarod Committee make every effort to clear this area to support the restart. Again, we are sorry that we can not offer the same accommodations for parking but we believe that relocation of the vehicle parking area is in the best interest of both the Iditarod and the State.

If you have any questions please contact me or Ron Stroman, Chief, Statewide Aviation Leasing at 334-2695. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Leo von Scheben, P.E., L.S., M.B.A.  
Commissioner

cc: Ron Stroman, Chief, Statewide Aviation Leasing  
Kurt Devon, M&O Superintendent, Central Region

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**ROSTON 01412**