Description of document: Correspondence, including emails between the Federal Aviation Administration and Governor Sarah Palin or the Office of the Governor of Alaska between January 1, 2007 and 26-September-2008

Requested date: 11-September-2008

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Source of document: FOIA Coordinator
FAA Alaskan Region, AAL-4
222 West 7th Avenue, #14
Anchorage, AK 99513-7587
Phone: (907) 271-4609
Fax: (907) 271-2800
Online email form: Alaskan Region FOIA
Re: Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Request No. 2008-007677AL:

This letter is in response to your FOIA request dated September 11, 2008, concerning all correspondence, including emails between the Federal Aviation Administration and Governor Sarah Palin or the Office of the Governor of Alaska between January 1, 2007, and the present.

If there is a Bill for Collection, please follow the remittance instructions on the bill or call me at 907-271-4609 for any questions.

Sincerely,

Michael A. Cirillo
Regional Administrator

Enclosure
December 17, 2007

Mr. Michael Cirillo  
Regional Administrator  
Federal Aviation Administration, Alaska Region  
222 West Seventh Avenue, Suite 14  
Anchorage, AK 99501

Dear Mr. Cirillo:

Welcome to Alaska and congratulations on your new appointment as regional administrator for the Alaska Region of the Federal Aviation Administration.

Thank you to your office and to your colleagues for providing excellent well-organized bilingual briefings to the Russian aviation officials who recently visited our state from the Sakha Republic. Ms. Charlene Derry, Ms. Jacki Holzman, and Mr. Byron Huffman provided informative and useful overviews of Alaska's aviation systems.

The delegation appreciated and benefited from these important contributions to their visit to Alaska. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Sarah Palin  
Governor
SEP 26 2008

Governor Sarah Palin  
P.O. Box 110001  
Juneau, AK 99811-0001

Dear Governor Palin:

Thank you for the opportunity to address your concerns regarding the Federal Aviation Administration’s (FAA’s) strategy to implement Automatic Dependent Surveillance – Broadcast (ADS-B) throughout the entire State of Alaska.

The FAA recognizes the safety benefits that ADS-B will provide to the aviation community of Alaska. The agency has committed to implementing a ground-based system to support the expansion of ADS-B services in the state of Alaska. This deployment is in conjunction with efforts of the aviation community to equip aircraft with proper avionics required to realize the benefits of the ADS-B system. Based on the Memorandum of Agreement signed in February 2007 between the FAA and Alaska aviation industry representatives, the “Alaska Capstone Statewide Plan” was developed to implement ADS-B services prior to the national ADS-B deployment plan.

For its part in implementing the plan, the FAA has committed an additional $306 million (lifecycle cost through FY 2035) to support and expand ADS-B services which will be available in Anchorage, Bethel, Juneau (a key site for the national deployment), Fairbanks, Nome and Kotzebue by the end of Fiscal Year 2009. An additional $187 million has been approved to expand ADS-B services based on the ability of the Alaska aviation industry to equip aircraft with ADS-B avionics.

In support of the “Alaska Capstone Statewide Plan”, the Safety Equipage Incentive Program (SEIP) has been set up and designed by Alaska aviation representatives to help provide financial assistance for the owners of approximately 4,000 Alaskan aircraft (based on 90% of the reported flight hours), to equip with proper avionics. The Alaska aviation industry identified that approximately $34 million will be required in order to equip 4,000 aircraft with ADS-B avionics to gain the safety benefits realized from the Capstone program. We recognize that the “Capstone Revolving Loan Program” of $4.8 million is a demonstration of your commitment to supporting the implementation of ADS-B throughout Alaska.

In keeping with the FAA’s commitment, and by working closely with the Alaska aviation community to accelerate ADS-B equipage and the ground deployment in Alaska, the FAA began operations in Fairbanks, Kotzebue, Anchorage and Cantwell this September – almost a full year ahead of schedule. The areas of Selawik, Point Hope, Kivalina, Nome, Savoonga; Moses Point and Shishmaref are all scheduled for completion in Fiscal Year 2009.
I sincerely hope this letter has addressed your concerns with regard to the FAA’s role in providing safe and reliable travel to the remote areas in Alaska through the implementation of advanced aviation technology and corresponding ground infrastructure.

For more information please contact: Jere Hayslett, Surveillance and Broadcast Services Project Manager, Western Service Area at (907) 271-5780.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
Richard L. Day
Vice President, En Route and Oceanic Services

cc: Mr. Robert A. Sturgell, Acting Administrator
    Mr. Michael Cirillo, Alaska Regional Administrator
    Ms. Megan Rosia, Assistant Administrator for Government and Industry Affairs
Here's the second of three items found.

//signed//
Sarah G.M. DeWitt, AAL-31 -- 907.271.5248
Management and Program Analyst
Executive Operations Division
----- Forwarded by Sarah DeWitt/AAL/FAA on 09/24/2008 03:11 PM ------

Thank you for getting back to me Janice! If we are fortunate enough to have the meeting here in Anchorage, it would be great! However, if her busy schedule does not allow that, I am sure Mr. Cirillo will be able to fly to Juneau. We will patiently wait to hear from you within the next couple of weeks.

Have a terrific afternoon Janice!

//signed//
Sarah G.M. DeWitt, AAL-1a -- 907.271.5645
Regional Staff Specialist
Office of the Regional Administrator
"Mason, Janice L (GOV)" <janice.mason@alaska.gov>

Sarah – Thank you for the email. We have the meeting request in the database for the month that you have requested. We have not scheduled into June at this time. We hope to be able to get back with you
in the next two weeks. Please let me know at what location Mr. Cirillo is requesting to meet with Governor Palin – Juneau or Anchorage.

Thanks again,
Janice Mason, Scheduler
Office of Governor Sarah Palin
(907) 465-3500
janice.mason@alaska.gov

From: sarah.dewitt@faa.gov [mailto:sarah.dewitt@faa.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, May 06, 2008 12:02 PM
To: Mason, Janice L (GOV)
Subject: FAA Regional Administrator
Importance: High

Hello again Ms. Mason,

I was wondering about status of our request? Is there anything I can share with Mr. Cirillo, Federal Aviation Administration Regional Administrator, regarding his request?

I appreciate your help on this.

I can be reached either via this email or by phone at 271-4609. Thank you.

//signed//
Sarah G.M. DeWitt, AAL-1a
Regional Staff Specialist
Office of the Regional Administrator
----- Forwarded by Sarah DeWitt/AAL/FAA on 05/06/2008 11:58 AM -----
Ms. Abbey advised that you are the appropriate person to speak with regarding scheduling a meeting with our Governor. Mr. Michael A. Cirillo, Federal Aviation Administration's Regional Administrator for the Alaskan Region, has respectfully requested that we set up a meeting with Governor Sarah Palin to talk about "growth of Aviation in Alaska." Can you please advise if Governor Palin is available the first part of June -- first two weeks --? Or, maybe I should ask, when would she be available to meet? If a phone call works much better for you, please give me a call at 271-4096.

I truly appreciate your help. Thank you!

//signed//
Sarah G.M. DeWitt
Regional Staff Specialist
Office of the Regional Administrator