

ATTACHMENT #8

December 8, 2009

Ms. Jeannie Johnson, Manager
Juneau International Airport
1873 Shell Simmons Drive
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Ms. Johnson,

This letter responds to William Wilmoth's letter proposing the removal of the airport eagles' nest and the destruction of the tree in which the nest exists. I received a copy of the letter today.

I strongly object to this measure. It has a low intelligence base and it is not in the best interest of protection for aircraft and passenger safety. This pair of resident eagles provides a beneficial predator role as a deterrent to other eagles and to flocking waterfowl on the wetlands. I implore you to get a biological review of the facts so we can all be safe when we fly.

It is important to find solutions that actually provide airport safety. The proposal fails to understand the real issues of airport safety beyond the airport: the thousands of ducks and geese that feed and rest adjacent to the airport and the attractant of Mendenhall River and its population of various species of migrating fish. Harassing the resident eagles away from the forest increases the likelihood that additional prey species will move in and that they will flock in larger numbers.

If you are honestly focused on managing the many varied birds that frequent the area you would pay attention to the very clean and basic biological reality. The trees PROTECT the runways. Get informed, step away from political factions that are uninformed and make a GOOD decision that will benefit us all.

I urge you to consult the Wildlife Hazards Working Group and to explore skilled management practices instead of accepting Mr. Wilmoth's Armageddon approach of complete removal.

Best regards,
Jeanne Josephson
2210 Muir Street Juneau AK