July 8, 2007

Chairman and members
Juneau Airport Board
Juneau International Airport

Dear Chairman and Members:

I do trust that you have considered 07 CBJAC 10.010 (a) Policy carefully when establishing the rates and charges for the users of the airport.

I recognize you understand and have made rates different for the large scheduled carriers and the small rural carriers on the airport. It is reasonable that you do not charge any operator of small aircraft for the length of the runway needed for a modern passenger carrying jet and likewise the lighting and snow removal needed to support aircraft of that size. I do not believe you recognize the different requirements of helicopters in relation to all other fixed wing aircraft.

Helicopters do not use runways, taxiways, and on rare occasion want any area sanded. Helicopters generate a relatively large number of landings (enplanements) at a relatively low cost to the airport, yet the helicopter operators are asked to pay the same lease, fuel flowage fee and other charges as the operators that cost the airport more money to service.

It would appear that you may not be following section (a) of the policy. Are you “ensuring fair and reasonable rates” to all class of users based on the services provided by the Juneau International Airport? Are the Helicopter Operators paying more than their fair share of the expenses incurred by the airport for their operations? Is the airport charging us for services we do not use? I think so!

As an example, the area in front of the hangar we use has RAP on it with several large pot holes in it. Coastal spent several hundred thousand dollars constructing a ramp and was required by the Airport Engineer to have at least 100% compaction prior to placing concrete on it. The following year the Airport paved the adjacent area and did not require the contractor to even excavate prior to placing asphalt on the area with no requirement to reach 100% compaction. Now there is a large sink hole and the shoddy work has caused
our concrete to crack next to the low quality work done by the Airport. We can not get the holes in the RAP patched nor the large bird bath and catch basin fixed. What am I going to get with increased tax payments to the airport?

I will appreciate your consideration in this and other costs that may not be relative to helicopters such as the float pond.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Jim Wilson, President
Coastal Helicopters Inc.