Matanuska-Susitna Borough

December 15, 2015

Mr. Dan Wilcox, Chair
Willow Recovery Team

Re: Willow Recovery Team Recognition

Dear Dan:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your service to the Willow Area Community after the catastrophic Sockeye Fire of 2015. Your presence and activity in the recovery process, and spirit of volunteerism has been monumental in the rebuilding efforts of the community and the Borough.

To date, with your help, $120,000 has been expended, which represents work on 7 homes, and 15 other major unmet needs. It is hard to quantify the amount of in-kind assistance that has been directed through the Recovery Team. You helped in arranging for the 'Give and Take' event in September, which included over 170 quilts given away through Willow Open Sew and Iditaquilter Quilt Guild. You are among those currently coordinating registries for homeowners to receive materials or labor, from Target, Fred Meyer, Bailey's Furniture, and numerous businesses and individuals from Mat Su Borough who have contributed outright, or at reduced rates.

Above all, your help to the individual homeowners in the midst of disaster has been inspiring. Many of them have been living in tents or campers for over six months. For those whose resiliency has been tested in the community, you have continued to participate to alleviate these conditions. Residents who have chosen to wait until Spring to rebuild continue to be displaced, sometimes outside the community, and you still plan to help them then as conditions allow.

The people of Willow have proven again that they are a hearty bunch, and do not let a setback even this great keep them from moving forward.

I convey many heartfelt thanks from the members of the community you have assisted, from Mayor Vern Halter, Assemblymember Randall Kowalke, Department of Emergency Services Director Bill Gamble, Deputy Director of Fire Ken Barkley, Emergency Manager Casey Cook, and the rest of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough.

Sincerely,

John M. Moosey
Borough Manager

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