



State of Alaska  
Department of Public Safety  
**Division of Alaska State Troopers**

Sean Parnell, Governor  
Joseph A. Masters, Commissioner

March 9, 2010

M. Diann Hursh  
PO Box 233  
Valdez, AK 99686

Dear Ms. Hursh,

Thank you for your letter and your concern for public servants regarding the use of pepper spray. The Alaska State Troopers take the safety and well-being of our employees seriously. We also take our training seriously.

It is necessary for a trooper recruit to be exposed to pepper spray so they know what effects it causes. This way they know that if they are attacked with pepper spray, they understand that they can fight through it. They also understand how to decontaminate themselves and anyone they are forced to spray.

So again, thank you for your concern, but we will continue our practice of exposing recruits to pepper spray.

Sincerely,

Colonel Audie Holloway  
Director

CC: Commissioner Joseph Masters, DPS  
Deputy Commissioner, Bob Groder, DPS  
Lieutenant Jim Helgoe, DPS Academy