



April 3, 2017

Honorable Delegate Anne Kaiser, Chair
House Ways & Means Committee
100 State Circle, Room 131
House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Request for full Committee Vote for Senate Bill 159:

Honorable Madam Chair Kaiser,

On behalf of more than 6,000 Maryland pilots we ask you to call Senate Bill 159 to a vote as soon as possible. This bill and its companion legislation, House Bill 67, have each been heard before the Ways and Means Committee. The Senate version passed its originating Chamber unanimously with the following amendment:

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect on July 1, 2017. It shall remain effective for a period of 5 years and, at the end of June 30, 2022, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

We kindly ask that the Ways and Means Committee consider this legislation, with the added sunset amendment and eliminate the very real disadvantage Maryland based aviation businesses face as a result of higher consumer costs. Failure to act on this legislation will result in the continued exportation of quality, higher-paying jobs as businesses are forced to eliminate Aviation Mechanic and Technician positions.

Governor Terry McAuliffe recently signed House Bill 1738 into law, removing the sales tax from aircraft parts in Virginia. As West Virginia pursues similar legislation, Maryland may soon be the only State taxing aircraft parts and components from South Carolina to Maine.

The Maryland Airport Management Association (MAMA) and a number of aircraft maintenance businesses have testified in support of this legislation. We ask for your leadership in bringing Senate Bill 159 to a vote, affording the Maryland aviation industry the opportunity to compete.

Sincerely,

Sean Collins, AOPA
Eastern Regional Manager

CC Delegate Jay Walker, Chair Revenue Subcommittee
Delegate Sid Saab, Sponsor H.67
Senator Steve Waugh, Sponsor S.159