

February 21, 2012

Roger L. Oberndorf, Chairman  
Virginia Aviation Board  
5404 Challendon Drive  
Virginia Beach, VA 23462

Dear Chairman Oberndorf:

On behalf of the 10,728 members of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association in Virginia and the rest of our 400,000 members nationwide, we write to commend the Virginia Aviation Board on its recent decision to provide an increased share of matching funds for Federal Aviation Administration Airport Improvement Program projects.

Changes to the Airport Improvement Program funding formula contained in the new FAA reauthorization measure have increased the burden on states and communities by reducing the federal contribution from 95 percent of the total cost to only 90 percent of the total cost.

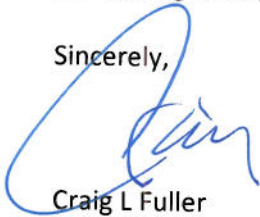
At a time when many state aviation organizations are also reducing their financial commitments to airport improvements, the Virginia Aviation Board has recognized the importance of protecting airports and stepped forward to increase its own contribution to AIP matching funds from 3 percent to 8 percent of the total cost.

This forward-thinking decision allows airport sponsors to continue to provide 2 percent of the total investment through matching funds. At a time when many small communities and airports are struggling as a result of the economic downturn, the VAB's willingness to increase its own support of airports is critical to ensuring that our aviation infrastructure remains intact and that the economic benefits of a strong aviation culture continue to accrue to the people of Virginia.

At the same time, the Board's decision to increase the funding for current temporary allocations by \$1.78 million will allow scheduled projects to move forward despite the change in the federal funding formula.

I want to thank you for your clear commitment to protecting and growing general aviation in Virginia. The leadership shown by the Board, State Aviation Director Randy Burdette, and his outstanding staff are shining examples for the rest of the nation and a credit to the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Craig L Fuller", is written over the word "Sincerely,".

Craig L Fuller

Cc:

Robert S. Dix  
Larry T. Omps  
Alex N. Vogel  
Thomas E. Inman, II  
John V. Mazza, Jr.  
Richard C. Franklin, Jr.  
Cheryl McLeskey  
Randall P. Burdette