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January 15, 2013

Mark Gardiner, Chair
Oregon State Aviation Board
3040 25th St. SE
Salem, OR 97302-1125

RE: Waldo Lake Floatplane Permanent Rule

Dear Mr. Gardiner:

The Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) is a not-for-profit membership organization that represents the general aviation interests of over 400,000 members nationwide, including over 6,200 in Oregon. Since 1939, AOPA has been committed to ensuring the safety, future viability, and development of general aviation airports and their facilities, including floatplane operations, as a part of our national transportation system.

We are writing on behalf of our members to strongly support the Aviation Board's adoption of proposed Oregon Aviation Rule 738-040-037, addressing floatplane operations on Waldo Lake. AOPA and our members believe the permanent rule as currently drafted allows for conditional yet reasonable floatplane access to Waldo Lake, consistent with other forms of existing motorized vehicle uses to and around the lake.

As you know, many other public entities, including the U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management and the National Park service have recognized the importance and minimal impact of floatplane operations, and have safely and reasonably accommodated them within their boundaries. We are supportive of the Aviation Board's desire to do the same with the proposed rule.

We appreciate your consideration of our comments, and your strong support for fostering a positive climate for aviation in Oregon. If you have any questions, please contact me at (301)695-2094.

Sincerely,

David R. Ulane, A.A.E.
Northwest Mountain Regional Manager

CC: Aron Faegre, President- Columbia Seaplane Pilots Association
Dennis Smith, President- Oregon Pilots Association