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March 28, 2013

The Honorable Claire Levy, Chair
Appropriations Committee
Colorado House of Representatives
200 E. Colfax Ave.
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Representative Levy:

The Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) is a not-for-profit membership organization that represents the general aviation interests of nearly 400,000 members nationwide, including over 10,500 in Colorado. On behalf of AOPA and our members, we would like to express the general aviation community's strong support for House Bill 13-1080, or any other legislative vehicle, that would extend the \$1,200 existing new employee income tax credit to businesses involved in aircraft maintenance.

Our national airspace system and the strong economy it supports could not function effectively without a robust network of aircraft maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) facilities. These facilities and the highly skilled aviation professionals they employ safely maintain the nation's fleet of over 220,000 aircraft, including nearly 7,700 in Colorado alone. By passing this legislation, existing MRO facilities in the state would be encouraged to expand, adding highly paid, family wage jobs to Colorado's economy and in turn strengthening their business and the aviation system. Additionally, passage of this legislation could encourage MRO facilities located in other states to relocate to Colorado, stimulating new economic development, jobs and aviation activity.

As you are likely aware, aviation in Colorado generates nearly 341,000 jobs with an annual payroll of \$11.2 billion, resulting in a total economic impact of \$32.2 billion. Without a broad and vibrant network of MRO facilities to maintain the aircraft that help create this impact, aviation activity in Colorado will suffer. Passage of this legislation will strengthen the MRO network in Colorado and increase aviation's economic impact in the state.

On behalf of AOPA and our members, we appreciate your support of House Bill 13-1080. If you have any questions, or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at (301) 695-2094.

Sincerely,

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

CC: Kenneth Maenpa, President-Colorado Airport Operators Association
Mark Brown, President- Colorado Pilots Association