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Kelly J. Fredericks  
President and CEO  
Rhode Island Airport Corporation (RIAC)  
2000 Post Rd.  
Warwick, RI 02886

October 29, 2015

RE: Block Island State Airport Fees

Dear Mr. Fredericks,

The Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) is a membership organization consisting of more than 350,000 pilots and aircraft owners, of which 660 reside in Rhode Island. AOPA is committed to ensuring the continued viability, growth and development of general aviation and airports in Rhode Island and the United States.

A new "facility fee" has been reinstated for aircraft below 5,000 pounds at Block Island State Airport. Fees are assessed at various amounts depending upon the month and aircraft weight. We can certainly understand the desire to seek financial support for the airport from transient operators. According to the latest Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) operations counts for Block Island State Airport, over 7,000 of the airport's 13,000 annual operations are conducted by general aviation transient aircraft. The imposition of this new fee will have a chilling effect on the operations counts at the airport.

While the airport clearly has the authority to implement a rate and fee structure that will make the airport as self-sufficient as possible under the current airport conditions as provided under FAA grant assurances, such fees must be fair and reasonable without any unjust discrimination. During the peak months of May through October, the facility fee is higher than it is at other Rhode Island airports which have larger facilities and more services available.

AOPA respectfully requests RIAC to revert to the reasonable fee structure that was previously in place at Block Island State Airport. Combined landing and facility fees of \$35 with a recurring charge of \$20 per calendar day on light, transient aircraft from May through October will discourage pilots from utilizing Block Island State Airport. Any anticipated benefit from the fees will be offset by the cost of collecting the fees and by the reduced volume of transient aircraft operations. As a result, the economic benefits currently experienced by the Block Island community will be greatly reduced.

Thank you for your consideration of our views on this issue. If I may be of further assistance, please contact me at 202-609-9702 or [adam.williams@aopa.org](mailto:adam.williams@aopa.org).

Sincerely,

Adam Williams  
Manager, Airport Policy  
Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association