



421 Aviation Way
Frederick, MD 21701

T. 202-737-7950
F. 202-273-7951

www.aopa.org

8 November 2019

Mr. Jack Clukey, Town Manager
Town of Dover-Foxcroft
48 Morton Avenue Suite A
Dover-Foxcroft, Maine 04426

TRANSMITTED VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL TO:
jclukey@dover-foxcroft.org

Re: Proposed solar farm on the Charles A Chase Jr. Memorial Field

Dear Mr. Clukey,

The Aircraft Owners & Pilots Association (AOPA) is the world's largest aviation membership organization representing the general aviation interests of 330,000 aircraft owners and pilots across the country, including 1,600 in the state of Maine. In my role, I serve as a representative for the organization across thirteen states from Maine to the Virginias with a focus on state aviation policy and providing support for general aviation airports. I am a certificated commercial pilot and happen to reside in Brewer, Maine. On behalf of our members we urge Dover-Foxcroft to pursue a solar farm solution that retains the Charles A Chase Jr. Airfield (44B).

Situated approximately halfway between Bangor and Greenville, your airfield should be viewed as a vital transportation link and important economic asset for the region. Community airfields, can create jobs, generate local revenue and attract businesses to the area. When managed properly, airfields offer a multiplier-effect to the economic health of an entire region, supporting jobs and incomes *beyond* an airport property line. Businesses actively seek locations with a community airport. During emergencies, your airport is the rallying point for airborne medical, law enforcement, and disaster relief services.

The U.S. Department of Commerce says that every \$1 spent at local airports adds another \$2.53 to the local economy.

Across Maine, private pilots volunteer as "angels" by transporting patients who could not otherwise afford to travel to and from life-saving medical treatments (Angle Flight). They do so free of charge donating their time, airplanes, and piloting skills. When calamity strikes, general aviation is often the fastest and most efficient way to get aid to those in need. Additionally, airfields like 44B are especially suited for the unique qualities of wild, rural Maine and can make for unique flying destinations for access to hiking and camping.

We understand the town controls approximately 70 acres of unobligated land adjacent to the airport. In light of the potential value afforded by the establishment of a solar farm, AOPA encourages the town of Dover-Foxcroft to consider alternative siting such that revenues from a solar farm can support and enhance further development of the airfield. While losing this important transportation asset may yield short-term gains, the permanent loss of aviation access to potential developers will ripple for decades.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important matter. AOPA is committed to ensuring the safety, future viability, and development of general aviation as an integral part of a national transportation system. We welcome any opportunity to serve the town of Dover-Foxcroft as a resource and offer our assistance with any efforts to develop and enhance this unique transportation asset.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sean M. Collins", is centered on a light-colored rectangular background.

Sean M. Collins, AOPA
Eastern Regional Manager

CC: Board of Selectmen, Town of Dover-Foxcroft