



September 16, 2014

The Honorable John D. Rockefeller IV
Chairman
Senate Committee on Commerce,
Science, and Transportation
254 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Thune
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Commerce,
Science, and Transportation
560 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Rockefeller and Ranking Member Thune:

We understand that S. 2759 has been placed on the Committee's markup agenda. As you know, this legislation would close the St. Clair Regional Airport, in St. Clair, Missouri.

As representatives of the general aviation community, we have serious concerns about closing and further limiting access to general aviation airports across the country, especially through legislation.

There is already a process established by statute under the Airport Improvement Program Grant Assurances requirements for the closure of airports like St. Clair that have received federal funding. As you know, this process exists, in part, to protect the federal investment in airports across the country.

The review of the St. Clair airport closure is already underway and we would respectfully request that the established FAA process move forward with a decision in a timely manner. It is our belief that this course will better balance the legitimate interests of the local community, aviation users, and the federal government.

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns.

Sincerely,

Mark R. Baker
President and CEO
Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association
(AOPA)

Thomas L. Hendricks
President and CEO
National Air Transportation Association
(NATA)

Peter J. Bunce
President and CEO
General Aviation Manufacturers Association
(GAMA)

Ed Bolen
President and CEO
National Business Aviation Association
(NBAA)