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Memorandum of Opposition New Hampshire HB 124

The Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) is the world's largest aviation organization, representing the general aviation interests of pilots and aircraft owners, including more than 2,000 of our members in the state of New Hampshire. On behalf of these members, **AOPA opposes House Bill 124 due to the proposal's drastic negative affect on airport funding.**

Competition at airports across the northeast is fierce. The opportunity for a state to increase its share of 'based' aircraft is limited, making the need to retain aircraft already based locally, vital. While AOPA encourages and supports states' efforts to entice aircraft relocation, the results expected by House Bill 124 will benefit only a limited number of airports. The overwhelming majority of New Hampshire's publicly owned airports, such as Concord, Lebanon, and Laconia airports, are dependent on the kickback revenues generated by the aircraft registration fee which account for approximately 30% of all New Hampshire airport funding through 2015 & 2016. Removing this much funding without a proposal to replace it, is a loss New Hampshire's airports cannot afford.

Recognizing that registration fees can be excessive in the first years of a new aircraft's registration on certain aircraft types, AOPA recommends a review of the current fee structure in comparison with neighboring states. Adjustments can then be made accordingly across the scope of aircraft types and sizes, to lessen the burden on certain aircraft while minimizing any loss to airport funding. Another alternative could be a corresponding dedication of and nominal increase on aviation fuel taxes which are currently some of the lowest across the northeast.

Containing the cost of aviation is an important goal for AOPA across the country as is the need to ensure that the necessary funding resources are available to public use airports. The industry continues to support the notion of paying a fair share toward these revenues and we believe the careful application of taxes on aviation fuels to be the best and most efficient means of safeguarding the future of general aviation airports. For these reasons and until amended language is secured, **AOPA opposes House Bill 124.**

About AOPA—

AOPA is committed to ensuring the safety, future viability, and development of general aviation as an integral part of a national transportation system. Since 1939, AOPA has protected the freedom to fly by creating an environment that gives people of all ages the opportunity to enjoy aviation and all it has to offer.