



**AIRCRAFT OWNERS AND PILOTS ASSOCIATION**

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January 11, 2007

Ms. Nancy J. Dragani  
Executive Director  
Ohio Emergency Management Agency  
Charles D. Shipley Building  
P.O. Box 182081  
Columbus, OH 43218-2081

Dear Ms. Dragani:

The Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) represents the general aviation interests of 410,000 members, more than two-thirds of the nation's pilots – including 13,600 in the state of Ohio. We have heard from numerous members from your state expressing their strong displeasure that Ohio aircraft owners are being required to sign the State's new Declaration Regarding Material Assistance/Non Assistance to a Terrorist Organization (DMA).


Our members are questioning why you have singled out aircraft owners for this requirement. As I review the list of identified licenses, aircraft are the only form of transportation that has been included. Frankly, it is offensive to Ohio's pilot population to suggest that they are more suspect than people who own boats, trucks, or automobiles.

Ohio's aircraft owners and pilots are committed to do their part to support our nation's security. That is why they commit to secure their aircraft and keep alert for suspicious activity, as part of the AOPA and Transportation Security Administration's (TSA) nationwide *Airport Watch* Program. In addition, many community airports have also implemented security programs and enhancements such as fencing and access controls.

Congress charges the Federal government, through the TSA and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) with responsibility for the nation's aviation security. Along with other federal law enforcement and security agencies, the FAA and TSA have instituted several comprehensive and effective programs. Amongst their many efforts, they constantly review lists of certified pilots and student pilots for links to known or potential terrorists, and carefully screen all foreign nationals seeking pilot training.

The aviation community takes security very seriously. Even so, we seriously doubt that a signature on the DMA provides the state or its citizens with real security or even valuable information. We strongly urge you to remove aircraft from the DMA identified licenses list.

Sincerely,

  
Gregory Pecotaro  
Vice President, Regional Affairs