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Clint Lowe
Dakota Airlift, Inc
608 9th Street South
Fargo, ND 58103

Dear Clint:

Thank you for writing to me about President Bush's proposed substantial increase in aviation fuel taxes.

I will not support that proposal. I think it is far too burdensome to general aviation and it will impose an unfair burden on pilots and general aviation that we rely on in the sparsely populated states for transportation needs.

The President is making the case that the cost of the airport and airways trust fund, as well as the FAA, needs to be restructured. I am willing to listen to ideas about how to restructure, but I am sure not willing to consider an increase in the aviation fuel tax from roughly 20 cents a gallon to 70 cents a gallon. That makes no sense to me at all.

I did some flying myself years ago and I am acutely aware of the role general aviation plays in a state like North Dakota. To increase the rate of aviation fuel tax more than three times is something I intend to oppose aggressively.

Frankly, I don't think there is a ghost of a chance that this proposal is going to be accepted by the Congress. I have spoken with a number of my colleagues about it and many of them feel the same way I do.

I appreciate hearing from you, and I will work hard to make certain this type of fuel tax increase doesn't see the light of day.

Sincerely,



Byron L. Dorgan
U.S. Senator

BLD:rbo