



AIRCRAFT OWNERS AND PILOTS ASSOCIATION
421 Aviation Way • Frederick, Maryland 21701-4798
Telephone (301) 695-2020 • Fax (301) 695-2375
phil.boyer@aopa.org

Phil Boyer
President

June 19, 2008

The Honorable Ted Strickland
Riffe Center, 30th Floor
77 South High Street
Columbus, OH 43215-6108

Dear Governor Strickland:

The Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) represents the general aviation interests of more than 414,000 pilots nationwide – including 13,400 in Ohio. I am writing to express our support for a provision in the budget recently enacted by the Ohio General Assembly that would extend the state's aviation sales tax exemption to include repairs and maintenance parts for aircraft used in general aviation.

Ohio has a proud history in aviation, and today, the state's system of 105 publicly owned, public-use airports and 58 non-system airports generate nearly \$10.5 billion in economic activity and create thousands of quality jobs. Aviation in Ohio creates more than 142,000 jobs, and generates over \$3.2 billion in paychecks to Ohio families. A recent study conducted by Silverlode Consulting has lead the General Assembly to include provisions in the budget that would exempt materials, parts, equipment and engines used in the repair or maintenance of aircraft or avionics systems, as well as maintenance or repair services.

Nearby states like Indiana and Michigan have already enacted similar exemptions, and the benefits of this action have already been felt in their aviation communities. Experience shows that aircraft, maintenance, and flight instruction all become more affordable. Accordingly, the number of based aircraft usually increases, with a resulting increase in economic activity direct and indirectly related to aviation.

Aviation businesses provide highly skilled, well-paying jobs, while generating broad tax and social benefits statewide. You should also consider that by its nature, aviation does not recognize state lines. Aircraft owners living close to border states with more favorable tax environments will choose to purchase and service their aircraft in those states. Creating this exemption would add Ohio to the growing number of states with aviation friendly tax climates. Given the economic good sense that this exemption makes for the aviation community, including pilots, aircraft sales and repair businesses, employees, and for Ohio as a whole, we strongly urge you to allow this proposed exemption to become law.

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Thank you for your consideration of our concerns. We believe that with the right tax and business climate, general aviation can play an ever-increasing role in Ohio's prosperity, and would be glad to work with you to increase its role in the state's future. In the meantime, if you or your staff have any questions or would like to discuss this matter personally, please do not hesitate to contact me or Mr. Gregory Pecoraro, our Vice President of Regional Affairs at 301-695-2106.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Phil Boyer". The signature is stylized and written in a cursive-like font.

Phil Boyer
President