



421 Aviation Way
Frederick, Maryland 21701

T. 301-695-2000
F. 301-695-2375

www.aopa.org

August 5, 2008

The Honorable Edward Meyer, President
Clark County Board of Commissioners
Clark County Government Building
501 E. Court Ave.
Jeffersonville, IN 47130

Dear Commissioner Meyer:

The Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) represents the general aviation interests of 414,000 members, more than two-thirds of the nation's pilots – including 7,572 of our members in the state of Indiana. On behalf of our membership, AOPA is committed to ensuring the future viability and development of general aviation airports and their facilities as part of a national transportation system.

It is our understanding that the Clark County Board of Commissioners asked the County Aviation Board for the Clark Regional Airport (JVY) to develop and implement a schedule of landing fees. These fees took effect in June of this year. While the original proposal created a schedule of landing fees that applied to all aircraft, we understand that strong input from local pilots was effective in setting the current rules to exempt aircraft weighing less than 6,000 pounds. AOPA respectfully requests the Board of Commissioners to continue that exemption on the basis that implementing landing fees for aircraft of all sizes will be a greater economic detriment to the airport than the current rates.

According to Federal Aviation Administration data the greater majority of flight operations at JVY are transient general aviation aircraft. We know from anecdotal evidence of our local members that many of those transients come to JVY from nearby airports in Indiana and Kentucky due to the lower prices for essential aviation services. If Clark County extends the landing fees to those smaller aircraft, it could very well drive off those same aircraft owners and further decrease the revenue generated by JVY.

We understand that airport sponsors across the country are facing trying economic realities and must look for ways to improve the bottom line at their airports. It is also a reality that pilots will be discriminating in the use of their aviation dollars and go to airports where the cost of flying is aggregately lower. AOPA encourages Clark County to be one of those airports pilots choose to utilize because they can get a better value for their dollar.

Thank you for your consideration of our views on this important issue. If we can be of further assistance to you please contact us at 301-695-2200.

Sincerely,

John L. Collins
Senior Liaison
Airports

cc:

Ronald Barnes, President, Clark County Aviation Board
Daniel Gregory, Member, Clark County Aviation Board