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Clark County Commissioners Office
500 South Grand Central Pkwy
Las Vegas, NV 89155

RE: Resolution from the Board of County Commissioners to Pursue Federal Legislation which Empowers the Department of Aviation to Direct Aviation Activities in its Jurisdiction

Dear Commissioner Reid:

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 4,556 of our members in the state of Nevada. On behalf of our membership, AOPA is committed to ensuring the future viability and development of local general aviation airports and their facilities as part of a statewide and national air transportation system.

We are writing to request that the Clark County Commission consider deferring immediate action on the proposed resolution to pursue Federal legislation which would empower the Department of Aviation to direct aviation activities in its jurisdiction.

Together, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and Clark County have invested significant amounts of funds totaling nearly \$30 million to enhance safety at Clark County's general aviation airports – with an additional \$7,100,000 planned for future enhancements. With this substantial investment, the federal government requires under grant assurance 22 (a), that "the airport sponsor will make the airport available as an airport for public use on reasonable terms and without unjust discrimination to all types, kinds and classes of aeronautical activities including, commercial, aeronautical activities offering services to the public at the airport."

AOPA recognizes the goal of the Clark County Department of Aviation (CCDOA) to ensure safety is a top priority within the Clark County Airport System. To that end, the CCDOA, the FAA, and local pilots have embarked on a number of local initiatives to improve the overall safety at North Las Vegas Airport (VGT). We all regret the recent accidents that occurred at North Las Vegas Airport. However, we believe that through efforts of the FAA Runway Safety Action Team, the FAA Las Vegas Flight Standards District Office and the upcoming open house at VGT being organized by local pilots, great strides are being taken to ensure everything possible is being done to make safety the top priority for residents of Clark County. Based on the collaborative efforts of the aviation community at the federal, state and local levels, AOPA suggests that additional federal legislation is unnecessary.

In light of the efforts being taken, AOPA strongly encourages the Commission to defer action on the proposed resolution. AOPA continues to work with the local pilot community to ensure general aviation safety throughout the Clark County Airport System is everyone's priority. We look forward to continuing to work with the aviation industry and Clark County in those efforts.

Sincerely,

Heidi J. Williams
Senior Director Airports